

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LX.]

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BIRTHS.

On 26th October last, at Stanhope House, Pensarn, Abergele, North Wales, the wife of E. JONES HUGHES, of a daughter. Still born.
On 21st November, at Shanghai, the wife of R. Y. ANDERSON, of a daughter.
On 21st November, at Shanghai, the wife of W. SCHÖNAU, of a son.
On 21st November, at Shanghai, the wife of R. H. ELIAS, of a son.
On 23rd November, at Shanghai, the wife of THOMAS TATLOCK, of a daughter.
On 23rd November, at Shanghai, the wife of H. A. GRAY, of a son.
On 24th November, at Shanghai, the wife of A. SCAGLIOTTI, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 21st November, at Shanghai, LIZZIE SMITH FERRIER, to WILLIAM ORTWIN, both of Shanghai.
On 22nd November, at Shanghai, THOMAS CALDWELL ANDERSON, of Yokohama, to KATHERINE, daughter of JOHN FINDLAY, of Hankow.
On 29th November, at the Peak Church, Hongkong, LENNOX GODFREY, third son of the late Colonel FREDERIC VINCENT GODFREY BIRD, Royal Marine Lt. Infantry, to MARGARET STUART, only daughter of Sir JOHN COCKBURN.

DEATH.

On 25th November, WILHELM LUBBS, of the I. M. Customs, Shanghai, aged 63 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 28th October arrived, per the ss. *Turkin*, on the 29th ultimo; and the ss. *Bengal* with the English Mail of the 4th ultimo is due to arrive sometime to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Chinese astrologists are predicting serious trouble for the year 1905.

Sixty-one Rand coolies suffering from beri-beri are being sent back to China.

There is a report that the Chinese are going to mint silver taels at Shanghai, as well as copper money.

H. E. Chou-fu, the new viceroy, has promised to open a Chinese Exposition when he reaches Nanking.

It is rumoured that the German s.s. *Tetaros*, on her way here from Japan, is to load for Vladivostok.

Piracy is again rampant in Hongkong and neighbouring waters: but several bad characters are now under arrest.

The Russian admiral has denied the truth of the reports of his men's misbehaviour at Canea. It was expected that he would.

There was quite a crush at St. Andrew's Ball this year; and very little real dancing was done until after many had gone home.

The Germans are said to be remonstrating with the Chinese on account of their opposition to the free navigation of Poyang Lake.

The article on page 418 gives an excellent idea of the troubles experienced by Chinese litigants and appellants at their native magistracies.

The *Tungchow*, a vessel now in port, recently sold by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, is said to be bound from here to Port Arthur, running the blockade.

At Harmston's circus at Hongkong on Nov. 25th, one of the newly imported lions made an attack on the trainer, but was beaten off before it hurt him.

The proprietors of the Green Island Cement Co., unanimously agreed to install the additional plant required. A full report of the meeting appears in this number.

Several censors are said to be preparing a memorial asking the Empress Dowager to resign from power in favour of the Emperor after her 70th birthday.

The Governor of Honan has wired to the Peking Government that the troubles in Hsiangfu-hsien in the prefecture of Kaifeng are completely suppressed.

A forthcoming marriage at Singapore is that of Lieut. Horace de Courcy Martelli, of the Royal Field Artillery, to Ethel Mary, daughter of Sir John Douglas, K.C.M.G.

The pioneer Soldiers' Club of the Empire, after being renovated and improved, was re-opened at Hongkong on the 1st instant. Some interesting speeches, reported elsewhere, were made.

The Sanitary Board in its task of keeping Chinese tenements clean is hampered by a legal quibble as to what really are tenement houses. A storm in the sanitary tea cup is reported in this issue.

Not much hope is felt that the present generation will see a reform in Chinese writing. As the article on page 419 shows, however, an alphabet has been officially recommended.

The magistrates this last week had evidence that Chinese criminals, when hard pressed by their own law, fly to Hongkong, where a humane government seems to sympathise with their sufferings.

Bennet Burleigh's despatches greatly exaggerated the anti-foreign movement in the north. There is, however, the usual flicker of rebellion. A translation of a sample placard appears elsewhere.

The Cricket League has notified Mr. G. Hoggarth that they will be pleased to accept a cup which he offers to be presented to the batsman who makes the best average in the League's matches during the season 1904-5.

The man who was mauled by a tiger in the New Territory, and was admitted into the Civil Hospital on the 19th inst., died on Nov. 27 and was buried on Nov. 29. His arm was amputated, but too late to avert mortification.

The Supreme Court reports include a case in which some hard things were unjustly said of the Hongkong Government because it refused to recognise a Chinaman's title to some land which the Chinese Government, prior to British occupation, had claimed.

Some people in Ceylon want the Government to mint its own rupees, instead of buying from India. They say the rupee costs tenpence to mint, and that Ceylon pays India one and fourpence for each one. It is pointed out, however, that India takes all the burden and responsibility of maintaining the exchange value of the rupee.

Pearls and precious stones to the value of £180,000 have been presented to the Empress Dowager by various officials. The grain superintendent presented a beautiful diamond which subsequently turned out to be glass. The *Peking Times* does not gratify our pardonable curiosity as to what happened to the grain superintendent; but we presume it would be something that went against the grain.

The ex-British steamer *Thales*, bought from the Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd., and now the German steamer *Veteran*, with quantities of winter clothes, blankets, medicine, and meat on board, which was steering for Port Arthur at 3 a.m. on the 19th inst., near Chefoo, was chased and boarded by the Japanese torpedo gunvessel *Tatsuta*. The captain stated that his vessel was destined for Newchwang, but she was recognised as an intending blockade-runner and sent to Sasebo.

The following vigorous comment appeared in one of the Home papers: "The most monstrous and inhuman part of the Russian outrage on Hull fishing vessels is that though one of the ships of the fleet remained in the vicinity to watch the trawlers after they had been fired upon, not a single boat was lowered or a single inquiry made by an officer of the fleet or a single explanation offered. If it were merely a question to be settled as between one admiral and another the Baltic Fleet would have been well served if Lord Charles Beresford took his squadron and blew the Russians up instantly. But perhaps Admiral Togo will kindly oblige."

MORIBUND LAWS.

(Daily Press, 28th November.)

On two previous occasions we have expressed the opinion that the term "law" as applied to the set of conventions known generically as International Law is inexact, if not absolutely a misnomer. At the time, we did not expect that the importance of the point would so soon be made apparent by a trial in the Court. Indeed, except as a matter having a certain academic interest, it did not occur to us that the discussion of the question—apart from a possible political outcome that we suggested might one day eventuate—was particularly practical or profitable. It arose, however, in the course of the local trial of certain issues of the dispute concerning a charter-party made between the owners of the ship *Prometheus* and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha. The Counsel for the shipowners contended, very naturally, as Russia had declared a certain principle to be the law, and as the Powers were permitting Russia to act as if her own declaration was the law, that this Russian declaration was to all intents and purposes the law under which the shipowners should conduct their business. The International lawyers had said contraband of war was one thing; the Russians had declared it another; and as Russia was the only authority that seemed to be giving practical effect to either or any definition, it seemed a sorry business to look to any so-called law that was not being enforced. We do not for one moment consent to suppose, even in face of Russia's declaration, and the fact that for some inscrutable reason the Statesmen of the world are allowing her to have her own way, that the law of contraband is not International Law as understood by other Powers. Nor do we question in the slightest Sir H. S. BERKELEY's decision that the law ruling the behaviour of neutral shipping should be International Law, and not any casual arbitrary ruling of some Power which may for the time—be enjoying the "splendid isolation" of SATAN after the rebellious council in the hall of Pandemonium. But with His Lordship's argument that a law agreed upon remains law even while some of its nominal adherents are flagrantly disobeying it, it is not so easy to be satisfied. Law may be a code of shalts and shalt-nots agreed to by a community, or a similar code enforced upon the community by some authority to whom the community has permitted the necessary power. It would seem foolish to suggest, as Sir HENRY BERKELEY says, because some persons possess temporarily the power to resist an established municipal law, that such municipal law has ceased to exist. The point is, however, that such power of resistance could only be temporary, as the power of the law to enforce its own observance must be re-asserted sooner or later. International law has never had such power, while the power to resist it has always been enjoyed by nations who in time of peace may have agreed to principles. Murderers frequently have the power for a time to defy the law, but the law against murder stands. Could it be said to stand if the law, instead of intervening as soon as possible, were to say to the murderer at large: "We protest against your act, which was unlawful," and let it go at that? There are laws now on the British statute books which are undoubtedly the law—here Sir HENRY BERKELEY's point seems to receive support—but which, by common consent, are regarded as dead-letters, and not acted upon. Suppose there were no arrangements for enforcing these old statutes in case of need, and we have the status of international

law, which consists of a mass of opinion as to what should be lawful, but has no machinery behind it to compel obedience to its dicta. True, there are numerous legal decisions based on its principles, but these were not international decisions. They were the decisions of judges learned in international law and its customs, and affected only individual delinquents coming within their own jurisdiction. Russia as a nation sets aside international law, even to the extent of repudiating a principle to which she had previously consented. A law which can be repudiated is not a law in the sense in which the term is understood.

The "golden rule" is a law which all men consent to. At least, we have heard of no man, and can imagine no man, likely to have the hardihood to oppose the principle of doing to others what he wishes others to do to him. In practice, however, this "law," or this "rule," the terms being rightly interchangeable, is more often broken than observed. As a matter of strict definition, it is not a "law," and it is not a golden "rule," because there is no Ruler, or Power, or mechanism back of it to put it into force. It is an axiom, an adage, a proverb, but it is no more; and that is the case with international law. Law is useless, and practically non-existent, if it does not practise. For practical purposes, in the current war, a cautious shipowner will naturally say that the law for him to obey is the law that is being enforced, and that is just what is being done, even by British shippers, whose national laws recognise and uphold the international law which does nothing to protect them if they fall within the clutches of Russia who has a law unto herself. The only known way to enforce law is in the provision of penalties for breach, and international law has no penalties. The horse led to the water could probably be made also to drink, if it could be made to understand that a refusal to drink would involve a beating. Russia in 1856 was led to the water (or international law of contraband and other things) and now, in 1904, she refuses to drink. More faith would be felt in the actuality of international law if Russia were also made to understand that her repudiation, if persisted in, would mean a beating.

PROPOSED REFORM OF CHINESE WRITING.

(Daily Press, 29th November.)

In the course of a very interesting paper on the characteristics of the people of Corea, written by the Missionary Bishop of that country, which appears in *East and West*, a quarterly Mission journal, a reference is made to the written language, which is of considerable interest in its bearing upon the Chinese as well as upon the Korean language. The Chinese classics in Corea, as in China, are the only books, a knowledge of which will entitle a Korean to be regarded as an educated man. But it appears that the Koreans have accomplished a feat which has often been suggested as highly desirable in China, namely, providing something in the form of an alphabet by which the written character can be deciphered. "For the benefit of the unlettered—that is to say the great mass of the people, an alphabetical script or syllabary has been provided by their scholars. With the help of this script (which is known as the En-Moun, and understood practically by everybody) all sounds of the spoken language can be easily expressed. The spoken language, being neither Chinese nor Japanese, stands, therefore, apart from Chinese, with the result that Corea has one language

which is written but not spoken and another which is spoken, but, except by the uneducated, not written." It appears that in the schools it is the great aim to teach Chinese, which the pupils learn to read and write—much in the same way as they would if they were in China; but the mass of the people are dependent upon the conventional tongue with its alphabetical expression for the ordinary purposes of life. How far this alphabetical and phonetic system is applicable to pure Chinese is not stated; and in this the remarks made in the article referred to unfortunately break off just at the point where they become most practically interesting. If, however, the alphabetical system can be applied to the ordinary Korean spoken language, there would seem little reason to doubt that with a little ingenuity it could also be adapted to the pure Chinese; and the means may perhaps be found in an unexpected quarter of solving a problem whose solution would be of incalculable benefit to students of Chinese, and would render the study of at least the colloquial language one comparatively easy. What the Koreans apparently do with their own language is very much what Europeans have to a large extent to do in acquiring Chinese. They make an attempt at a phonetic record of the words used without too much trouble as to the actual characters that would be used in writing. But unfortunately there is no European language which is really adapted to express with anything approaching to accuracy the true pronunciation of Chinese words in any accepted dialect. In French a vast number of the Chinese words are simply impossible; and neither German nor English will meet the requirements, in all cases—but a happy mixture of the three languages may arrive at a slight approximation to either the Peking or the Nankin Dialect—but at best the result is very unsatisfactory. It is worthy of enquiry whether the Korean "En-Moun" would help out the difficulty. That a people so little considered, and in many ways so insignificant, should, for their own edification, have hit upon a device for making it possible to write the language ordinarily spoken in a way that will be "understood of the people" is certainly to their credit, and it might be hoped that something of the same kind would be taken in hand for the benefit of the masses in China. If once a phonetic system could be accepted by the Chinese, it would not be very difficult to adapt it to the more important local dialects, and by degrees one of the great bulwarks of "localism" in China would be, at least to a considerable extent, broken down. Of course any movement of the kind would be regarded with dislike by the more educated classes in China. To them, the written character and the classical style are subjects almost of superstitious veneration, and the idea of modifying writing for the simple object of making it intelligible to people who have not gone through the same hard studies as they have themselves, would appear an innovation little short of revolutionary; but changes quite as radical have been effected in other places, and might not be impossible even in China, the proverbial country of all that is conservative. Among the purely scholastic the old classical Chinese is certain to hold its own for many long years to come—if for no other reason for the very efficient one that a mastery of it is looked upon as the only thing which gives a man a title to be considered educated at all. But as time goes on the scholastic feeling might become modified to some slight extent, and it might be possible for the benefit

of the masses who cannot obtain a "classical education" to do something in China similar to what appears to have been done in Corea so as to bring something in the form of education upon China's own lines within the reach of the large masses. The extent to which, even as things are, the common people obtain a mastery over the uninviting "characters" which go to make up the Chinese language is a marvel to Europeans, among whom, even those who devote half their lives to the study, there are few who can trust themselves to read an ordinary Chinese document without assistance from a teacher. Possibly the faculty is hereditary, and the Chinese have an inner-consciousness of the "Three Character Classic" from their birth, as Heine said the lucky Roman babies knew their accusatives in "im" in their cradles; but, allowing for all this, the fact still remains that any mastery of the Chinese language must be an impossibility to the large mass of the people, and that on the whole their knowledge must be very restricted. Anything which would improve this state of affairs would be an enormous benefit to the country, and though it is likely to be some time before the Chinese are sufficiently enlightened to take this view of the subject, still something might be done, on the lines adopted in the Corea, to enable many of the masses, who cannot hope to become finished scholars, to acquire a wider acquaintance with the general subjects of education in their country, and to have the means of more readily acquiring information upon current matters.

THE AWAKENING OF THE WAIWUPU.

(Daily Press, 30th November.)

The announcement that the Chinese Government had notified Mr. CONGER, the United States Minister at Peking, that the contract agreements with the American China Development Company of the 14th April, 1898, and 13th July, 1900, to construct the proposed Hankow-Canton Railway are cancelled must have come as a rather unpleasant surprise not only to the Company itself but also to the Belgian financiers who had agreed to purchase the American rights. The belief entertained by the Chinese that the Belgian capitalists represented other nationalities (to wit, France and Russia) seems to have stirred up a most determined opposition to the transfer in the two Kwang, and several meetings have been held in Canton at which the withdrawal of the American capitalists from the enterprise was severely criticised. The representations made by the people of Kwangtung and the Hunanese have had the effect desired. The Waiwupu, influenced considerably no doubt by the success of Japanese arms, plucked up sufficient courage to respond to the appeal of the Southern Chinese and have cancelled the concession made to the American Belgian Syndicate. They had good and sufficient reason for so doing. The main line had not been commenced, and they did not consider the construction of the Fatsan to Samsui line a sufficient pledge or indication of the concessionaires' intention to carry out the main scheme to constitute any excuse for the sudden retirement of the American company from the field. Moreover, the time limit has been reached and passed, and on that ground alone the Chinese Government could, we imagine, proceed to cancel the agreement. It is laid down in Article 4 of the Supplemental Agreement that, "if after the expiration of twelve months from the date of ratification hereof the work

of construction shall not have been begun on the main line, this Supplemental Agreement is to become null and void." That period has long been passed, and the main line has not, so far as we are aware, been commenced at either end. It is not surprising, therefore, that when the American Company sells its rights to a foreign body the Chinese Government should turn restive and decline to be a party to the proposed transfer, more especially when they have reason to suppose that the Power that has given them so much trouble in Manchuria is to take the place of capitalists who might reasonably be supposed to entertain no political aims or ambitions.

The action of the Chinese Government in this case may perhaps also act as a stimulus in other directions. There has been a great lack of vigour in carrying out railway construction in most cases where concessions have been given. The case of the German syndicate who had the concession for a railway from Tsingtao to Tsinanfu, the capital of Shantung, was a notable exception. That line was completed to Tsinan last spring, and the fact reflects much credit on the energy and push of the syndicate. The British syndicate who hold the concession to construct the Kowloon-Canton railway have not yet commenced the work despite the vigorous outcry raised, and even now is unprepared to start work, six years after obtaining the right. We believe that negotiations are proceeding between the British and Chinese Corporation and the Colonial Office for some subsidy or guarantee for that portion of the line passing through British territory, and these negotiations appear to have been going on for the greater part of the year. The same Corporation has the concession for the construction of the Shanghai-Nanking line, for which a loan has at length been floated, but the work has not yet been commenced. Why do not these worthy people endeavour to make a start and show themselves in earnest? Why these endless delays? It is true that in China the Government and people—like most Orientals—take no note of time, even by its loss; but there is, or may be, a limit to their complaisance in this matter, if one day it should appear to suit their interests to take advantage of the time limit of the agreements. Nor is this the only danger. It might suit the purpose of British capitalists to offer to undertake the construction of the Hankow-Canton railway, and if the Kowloon-Canton line were well on the way to completion there would have been a good chance of obtaining this concession. But when the Chinese Government note the tardiness of the British concessionaires in carrying out their undertakings they may doubt the expediency of granting more concessions, and endeavour to carry out the work with native capital. The fact that this is not readily forthcoming for enterprises fathered by the Chinese Government will probably prevent the early realization of such schemes, even if the mandarins were prepared to accept the task. In any case, however, the considerations above noted should be sufficient to wake up the British capitalist, and perhaps the British official, who is sometimes a little too much inclined to create delays and difficulties.

Chang Chen-hsuan, the wealthy Singapore merchant in Singapore who was recently appointed Commercial Superintendent of the Treaty Ports and Director-General of agriculture, mining and railways in Fukien and Canton, will start his work in Canton, as he is most familiar with that part. He will leave Peking after the birthday celebrations.

RICHES OUT OF REACH.

(Daily Press, 1st December.)

Szechuan, or, as the Report spells it, Ssich'uan, is the subject of a report presented to both Houses of Parliament last month. It is by Consul-General Hosie, and Sir Ernest SATOW recommended it as "interesting and valuable." The most casual glance over the hundred odd pages is sufficient to show that Mr. Hosie has made an exhaustive study of the products of this province, its manufactures and its mining resources. Its name means "Four Streams," referring to the four rivers which flow from its northern limits to the Yangtze. Szechuan is the largest and richest province of China. At present it is the eastern half which is productive, but Mr. Hosie states that the western half is undoubtedly rich in valuable minerals. There are huge salt deposits. All over the "Red Basin," as eastern Szechuan is called, from its frequent outcrops of red sandstone, there are evidences of the existence in prehistoric times of a race of cave-dwellers, who were adepts at cutting out little apartments in the solid cliff, making little doors, and occasionally a tiny window, and even decorating them with rude stone carvings. One reason given for Szechuan being so well developed and rich is that the workers are mostly immigrants from other provinces. Mr. Hosie entertains the idea that the inhabitants of the undeveloped west are descendants of the cave-dwellers. The plain of Ch'engt'u, being artificially and well irrigated, deserves the name of "the garden of Szechuan." It contains seventeen cities, but the bulk of its population is essentially rural. The climate in this district is so mild that the swallow remains through the winter. The methods of irrigation and manuring appear to be similar to those in other parts of China. The Consul-General mentions the rice at Ch'engt'u which is dyed red, and boiled with the meat to give the latter a nice, fresh colour. "Having frequently," he says, "been struck with the abnormally healthy appearance of odd pieces of meat on street stalls and in the baskets of pedlars, I felt impelled to inquire how it was done, and the above explanation was given to me in the strictest confidence." Rape is the chief winter crop, with wheat a good second. The yield of wheat per mow is 320 lbs., giving 192 lbs. of flour, which is far from white, and retailed for 36 to 40 cash a pound. All the known grains are represented in this well-tilled district, however; and there is one (the product of which is used for making cakes) which Mr. Hosie could not identify. It is planted after rice harvest, and reaped in late autumn. After giving a most attractive list of the other agricultural products of the province, and the manufactures therefrom, Mr. Hosie gives an interesting account of the methods and results of sugar manufacturing. Under the head of tea, we learn that Szechuan not only supplies its own tea, but sends a very respectable surplus regularly to Tibet, about 1,860,000 taels worth every year. It is not hard to guess, therefore, at the vested interests which led to much of the Tibetan opposition to Indian supplies. A taotai of whom Mr. Hosie requested information on this point, and who had formerly held office in Shanghai (YEN CH'IAO), attempted to deceive him with a much minimised return of the Tibetan trade, but he overdid it. When urged to give a more accurate return, he said that the Consul-General was "too exacting as to details," and refused to re-open correspondence. Considerations of space forbid the present treatment of much

other valuable information that the report contains; and we must hasten to the means of tapping the riches thus alluringly portrayed. Unfortunately, he says, Szechuan is not readily or easily accessible. The clamour raised by casual travellers for the steam navigation of the "magnificent waterways" was a little too hasty and unthinking. Practical navigators have convinced the Consul-General that, from a commercial and paying standpoint, through steam navigation of the Upper Yangtze, from Ichang as far as Wan-hsien, is a dream that can never be realised. As the Szechuanese are rich, and eager for foreign goods, this is a great pity. The freight is so high that a 4lb. tin of Hongkong cube sugar, worth about sixty cents in Shanghai, cannot be had in Szechuan for less than \$3.40. That network of railways overspreading China, of which the visionaries talk, will be welcomed by more than foreigners when it crystallises into fact.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

(Daily Press, 2nd December.)

The Scots among all the nations cling most tenaciously to the memories of their race, and the annual fling in honour of their patron saint, Andrew of that ilk, is but one of the red letter events they have to draw together the scattered representatives of the northern kingdom. "When Januar' winds are blowing cauld" it is customary in many places to meet together on "Burns night" to celebrate the natal day of the poet who more than any other "chief" has cemented the bonds that knit together in the common pride of race and love of fatherland a people who, like another nomad people, as tenacious of national traditions as themselves, the Jews, are greatly scattered, and yet never forget. The influence of ROBERT BURNS is a splendid illustration of the underlying truth of that saying by a talented Frenchman, "Let me make the songs of a people, and I care not who makes its laws." It is not, of course, that the Ayrshire bard has provoked this sense of kinship; he has but given adequate expression to an emotion that never leaves the poorest exile of the land o' cakes. It is not, either, that the canny Scot has a monopoly of this sentiment. It is more apparent, perhaps, because his emotions have not yet assumed the complexity of more cosmopolitan communities. Where the heather blooms, and the whaups cry, life remains simple. The air is pure, the food simple, the manners direct and uncompromising. Any intellectual subtlety is confined to theological channels, as any Sassennach will soon observe who mentions a word like "predestination" in a circle of Northmen, however far away from the kirk they may be domiciled. This bent may also be accounted for by the Scottish environment. It was BURNS himself who was the author of the most widely known expression of the aspiration towards universal brotherhood; and it would almost seem as though this persistent emphasising of their separate nationality must tend to put further away the time when "man to man the wide world ower, shall brithers be, and a' that." Yet it certainly maintains the fraternal feeling among themselves, and if they would only refrain from protesting when the Englishmen cling to the sacred name of "England," instead of insisting so punctiliously on all occasions on the word "Britain," the mutual understanding would be better. After all, it is no separatist feeling which prompts the retention of the old style, but historical associations pure

and simple. We have no liking for that insularity of thinking which permits our young people to revive the old phratry instincts to the extent of believing that "Taffy is a thief," Paddy a homicidal maniac with a shillelagh, Sandy a dour skinflint whose only diet is horse-fodder, and so forth. On the other hand, not taking too serious a view of poetic visions of a millennium, we have to recognise that were the natural love of locality, of "my own, my native land," ever to be allowed to die, universal stagnation, rather than universal brotherhood, would be the likeliest result. These aspirations, generally regarded as hopeless in practice, are just as universally accepted in theory by the good people of all nations, especially when the sentiment is crystallised by some genius into a memorable verse or happy phrase. And yet it is difficult to repress a shudder at the thought of the pipe-dreams of these idealists coming true. It would mean a world of Little Englanders, and Little Scotlanders, an international muddle of the "After you, my dear Alphonse," sort of thing. Things are better as they are, with Sandy on St. Andrew's day apostrophising his haggis and his thistle, and John Bull on St. George's day chanting the praises of England's roast beef and roses. Locally, this argument will not be disputed, when the pleasure and happiness given on St. Andrew's Day is remembered.

HONGKONG JOTTING.

28th November.

Signs are not wanting that Christmas is drawing very near. Toys are shown in the shop windows and children are reminded of Christmas trees. Patrifamilias consoles himself with the reflection that there will be no difficulty in procuring the tree this year. The woodcutter has been very busy lately, and I have no doubt all orders received for Xmas Trees by the Botanical and Afforestation Department will receive the best attention. Anxious as the Government are to develop this source of revenue, this opportunity should not be overlooked. It should be advertised that the Chief Woodcutter has an unlimited supply at his disposal eminently suitable for Christmas Trees and that prices will be marked in plain figures, etc.

I make the latter suggestion in consequence of overhearing a conversation between two ladies. One was wearing a brand new cloak which the other had evidently seen before. "If I might ask, how much did you give for that handsome cloak?" said Lady No 1. "Only \$140," replied the other. "You did!" exclaimed her interrogator thoroughly astonished. "Well, well; that is how your friends treat you," she said, and confided to the equally astonished Lady No 2 that she had admired that cloak in a shop, and the shopkeeper being an old friend of hers offered to let her have it at "the specially low figure of \$180." The Woodcutter will see the moral. If the Colonial Secretary should come to buy a Xmas Tree—well, having pointed the moral, I must leave it to others to adorn the tale.

The great grievance of the resident in Hongkong who does not happen to be the owner of his own dwelling house is the continual rise in rents, due to the increasing population. There are many who think that in this respect "there never was such a place." But that is a mistake. The centenarians, nonagenarians, or octogenarians of London could a tale unfold. In a recent issue of the *Times* I noticed an advertisement reproduced from the *Times* of 100 years ago, announcing for sale by public auction "a modern, brick built family dwelling finished in superior style" situated in Upper Kensington Place, Vauxhall. The rent of this "singularly neatly fitted up and convenient leasehold residence" with full-bearing fruit trees in the garden was "5 guineas per

annum." Now it is difficult to get a decent house in a Vauxhall terrace for five guineas a month. Thus times change and rents change with them in other places as well as in Hongkong.

Some time ago when complaints were being heard regarding the gradually increasing price of meat in the Colony I drew up a comparative table of the prices obtaining in Hongkong, Shanghai and Japan. I showed that prices in Shanghai were appreciably lower than in Hongkong, while in Japan they were considerably higher than we are required to pay here. In Kobe just now I note that a strong protest is being made by the foreign community against the continuous advance in prices. One correspondent gives in a brief letter a few quotations which are sufficiently interesting to bear quotation here.

	HONGKONG.	SHANGHAI.	KOBE.
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.
Beef	17 cents	10 to 16 cents	38 sen
Soup	14 "	—	22 "
Mutton	24 "	12 to 19 cents	48 "

I suppose the rise is partially explained by the growing popularity of a meat diet among the Japanese.

The allusion in the obituary notice of Mr. Justice Leach to his interest in sport will have recalled to many old cricketers the leading part which Mr. Leach used to take as a member of the Hongkong Cricket Club. Few officials have left this Colony with more general manifestations of regret. "He will be remembered in Hongkong," said the *Daily Press* on the occasion of his farewell to the Colony, "by all who know him as one who has in a pre-eminent degree possessed the qualities, dear above all others to Englishmen, of being a good comrade, a good sportsman, and a gentleman." He was entertained at a dinner on the Cricket Ground at which His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, was present, and in a speech which came with particularly good grace from one who could speak as an old cricketer as well as an official chief spoke of his professional worth and ability and expressed the hope that Mr. Leach had been lent, not given, to Singapore, and that he would be welcomed back to Hongkong in good health and in a still more responsible position. That was nine years ago, and the hope now is, unfortunately, beyond possibility of fulfilment.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 29th Nov. in the Board Room. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. Dr. H. McFarlane, Dr. P. Barnett and Mr. T. H. Hammer (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

A MOTION.

The President moved:—"That the Board under the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Inspectors George William Coysh and Robert Charles Witchell to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any of the bye-laws duly made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, when so instructed in writing by one of the medical officers of health. That the Board, under the provisions of Section 256 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Inspectors George William Coysh and Robert Charles Witchell to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate for the recovery of any penalty imposed by Part II of the said Ordinance or any Bye-law made thereunder when so instructed in writing by one of the medical officers of health."

The President explained that Inspector Witchell was now in charge of the station at Kowloon, and that Inspector Brown as it was had too much work to do.

The motion was carried.

ALLEGED LIMEWASHING INJUSTICES.

Mr. Rumjahn in a letter to the Secretary asked:—Is Inspector Lyons or any other prosecuting senior inspector empowered to take out a summons against an offender, real or supposed, without first verifying the complaint of one of his subordinate officers? If so, who has given this authority? If I remember correctly, instructions to the senior inspectors, approved by the Board last year, require them to verify all complaints made by their subordinates before taking action.

The letter was in connection with summonses in respect of No. 11, Shepherd Street, Nos. 1 and 3, School Street, and House No. 15, facing the Polo Ground. Mr. Rumjahn wrote:—"I think the Board should be informed whether or not it was a fact that the magistrate discharged the defendant (in the case relating to No. 11, Shepherd Street) on Inspector Lyons telling the Bench that the premises were limewashed after the summons was taken out, as understood by the defendant. As a matter of fact, if such statement were made it was not true."

The Secretary in reply wrote:—"No. 11, Shepherd Street, was found after the summons was taken out not to be a tenement house, so the case against the owner was withdrawn." Other houses were occupied by two families. "I think the Board may be under a misapprehension with regard to the people in Tai Hang. Many of the houses are in the occupation of one man, but they take in lodgers. As to the cleanliness mentioned by Mr. Brewin, I have not noticed it personally, and I should like to know whether he visited the village after October 13th, as the whole was cleansed under the direction of Inspector L. E. Brett between October 10th and 13th."

The Hon. A. W. Brewin minuted—Presumably the owner of No. 11, Shepherd Street, was wrongly fined in the spring of this year. Houses Nos. 1 and 3, School Street, and Nos. 1 and 15, facing the Polo Ground, are not in my opinion tenement houses. I was these houses particularly I referred to in remarking on the cleanliness of the houses in Tai Hang. If the M.O.H. is not satisfied with the cleanliness of these houses he is hard to satisfy. They were really clean and evidently kept regularly clean.

The PRESIDENT said it was hard to say what term the Chinese applied to their family houses. The M.O.H. understood that the term was applied to all the members of a family, up to five generations. If that were the case the bye-law as to limewashing required amending, especially when applied to places like Kowloon City. One of the tenement houses mentioned was kept by two families.

Dr. BARNETT explained that in this house, or houses would be more correct, cows were kept down below, while one family occupied the floors of the two houses up above.

Mr. RUMJAHN said he could only come to the conclusion that the M.O.H. in believing that these were kept by more than one family house must be holding a brief in defence of one of the officers who had taken legal actions against a man without enquiring into the case. At the last meeting he drew attention to tenement houses. Since then Dr. Barnett had again been to the village, and could not come to the conclusion that these houses were occupied by more than one family. The action taken against these people was wholly unjustified and illegal. On the 30th March he drew attention to the irregularities in a case against the Wharf and Godown Company, and then hoped that indiscriminate prosecutions would be put a stop to. Since that case cropped up many irregularities had taken place, and people had been hauled up before the police magistrate and wrongly convicted. He moved that a committee be appointed to enquire into it as matter, and thereby put a stop to these exasperations once and for all.

The PRESIDENT—What matter?

Mr. RUMJAHN—That relating to Tai Hang Village.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded the motion, but he did not endorse all Mr. Rumjahn's remarks. If there had been wrong he thought it had been done in good faith, though Mr. Rumjahn viewed it in the opposite way. It would seem on the face of things that some wrong had been committed, so it would be only right to appoint a committee to look into the matter.

The motion was carried, and the President appointed Messrs Pollock, Rumjahn and Brewin to enquire into the matter.

VERANDAS.

Regarding applications to enclose verandahs the PRESIDENT said that if such were granted the Sanitary Board would have great difficulty in dealing with such cases in the future. He proposed that the applications be refused.

Mr. HEWETT seconded, and it was agreed that they be refused.

MARKET PLANS.

An application for permission to sell fish at No. 10, Wing Fung Lane was refused.

On the suggestion of Mr. HEWETT it was agreed that each member of the Sanitary Board should be supplied with plans showing the market limits; this would considerably facilitate matters when considering these applications.

RATS.

During the week ended the 28th inst. 528 rats, including seven which were plague infected, were caught at Hongkong; and 354, including seven infected, at Kowloon.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended on the 22nd inst. shows that work in this direction has been pushed forward. In the eastern district, 2,936 houses were limewashed; central, 2,937 houses; and western, 318 houses.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The following mortality statistics are given at the rate per thousand per annum:—

	W. end.	Cor. W.
	12th inst.	1903.
British & Foreign Civilians	25.7	36.1
Chinese and population	15.2	13.8
Chinese boat population	11.3	11.0

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 28th November.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

TANG TSZ U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

A motion at the instance of Tang Tsz U in the case of Tang Tsz U against the Attorney-General came under consideration. The application was in respect of land claims in the New Territories, claim C. A. Survey district No. 4. The Land Court found that under the circumstances, the appellant not having reclaimed certain land, the Chinese Government could have cancelled the grant; and the British Government now were therefore entitled to do so. Tang Tsz U recently obtained leave to adduce further evidence, and the Crown brought other evidence in answer to this. The case was to have come on for hearing on Thursday last, but was postponed on account of an application from the Crown. The Crown put in a paper yesterday morning, which Tang Tsz U desired leave to answer, so applied for adjournment.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Attorney-General) and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Crown.

Mr. Slade—I have to ask for an adjournment. The case was originally fixed for Thursday, and then adjourned till Friday. It was adjourned again till this morning by request of my learned friend. This morning an affidavit was filed in opposition to the motion, setting out facts which it is imperative for us to answer. I ask Your Lordships to let us have an adjournment to answer this affidavit. One of the men we require in this matter is in Canton. Your Lordship knows that it takes time; there is always delay. I may say the other side have had a week, and we only ask for the same thing.

His Lordship—What you said was that a viceroy or provincial treasurer had written a letter to some consul, setting out his views. Why did not you give notice to produce the document if they have got it? If he wrote a letter in answer it only shows that if you had taken the trouble you could have got one also. I am not sure that we will let you give any more evidence.

Mr. Slade—This point is material or not material.

His Lordship—You must show us where it is material before we accept that. We think you had better deal with the whole question, and we will see if we are entitled to give you leave to bring further evidence.

Mr. Slade—I understand, my Lord, that you will not take into consideration the last affidavit.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp—I will not argue on this affidavit; I am not going to press it.

His Lordship—We must hear reasons why you should get more time to give further evidence. Twelve months have elapsed since your case came on before the Land Court. All this should have been in your possession to lay before the Land Court.

Mr. Slade replied that they had been pressed for time. Translations took a long time, and many documents not put in during the hearing had been translated. Mr. Slade proceeded to deal with the merits of the application.

His Lordship said that the application should have been made at the Land Court.

Mr. Slade said that the document in question was in the safe keeping of the provincial treasurer of Canton. They could not get the original document out of the yamen, but would bring an official to certify the copy. As a matter of fact, his learned friend had not denied that a copy of this document was in the possession of the Crown. Mr. Slade further said that the translations put in by the other side were not good ones; he could bring evidence to prove it.

His Lordship said that the Court was not bound to accept evidence, but the Court having evidence before it was at liberty to draw inferences on these facts. Why rely on the consuls in China? Justice Sercombe Smith had a knowledge of Chinese.

Mr. Slade did not think that Mr. Sercombe Smith would disdain such translations which he could produce.

His Lordship said that the land belonged to the Crown. If the appellant declared that he ought to have the land it was for him to get title deeds from the Government. If the Government recognises the claim it was bound by conscience to give title deeds or compensation. If he could prove that he ought to have a title granted the Government would give him one, or compensation. When the case had come before the Land Court, however, it was decided that he had no right to a title. The appellant said the Crown ought to grant them a title. If the court took that view the Government, by the ordinance, must take that view or give compensation. This claim, however, was not recognised by the Chinese Government; and need not now be recognised by the present Government unless it liked.

Mr. Slade said that if the Government withheld equitable title deeds they could sue the Government. The claim was allowed by the Land Court on condition that they were not bound by it.

His Lordship held that the land belonged to the Crown, which had the same rights as were previously held by the Chinese Government. Why did they not take occasion to enforce their equitable rights? Mr. Gompertz, who had given his decision in the Land Court, had stated his reasons.

Mr. Slade—The land is very valuable and that is why the Government wants it.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp said it was an application for leave to call further evidence in reply. It was not a case for evidence in reply; this had already been allowed. At the Land Court they had put in evidence, and the Crown put in evidence to answer. This was a thorough hearing, lasting over a period of five months. Later an application was made to put in further evidence in reply to the Crown case, and this was granted on the condition that the Crown should have the opportunity to put in further evidence. And now the appellant wanted to put in further evidence which, if allowed, would be unheard of. Mr. Sharp opposed the motion on the ground that it was inadmissible.

After further remarks by Mr. Sharp, Mr. Pollock on the same side quoted legal authorities.

His Lordship the Chief Justice said—We think the application should be refused. We think the motion for leave to adduce further evidence in this case should be dismissed. No precedent has been adduced to this Court.

for giving leave to adduce evidence in reply to affidavits filed in answer to other affidavits filed under the leave to produce further evidence. The rule is that each party shall in the first instance produce all the evidence he has. This claim, among others, came before the Land Court, established under the Land Court Ordinance of 1900, with the definite object of settling titles to land in the New Territory. In that ordinance the Land Court was invested with the power to allow or disallow claims. In this particular case the claimants were represented by a solicitor. They knew with what the court before which they were represented was empowered to deal. They knew that the court had power to allow their claim or disallow their claim. If the court allowed their claim it would report its allowance to the Government in order that a title might be given to the claimants. Now it would be clear to those representing the claimants that they ought to present to the Land Court their whole case and meet any objections on the part of any one opposing their claim. Now the proceedings of the Land Court have been leisurely in the extreme. It was established in 1900. The claimants before the court to-day it is to be supposed entered their claim at that time. Judgment was not delivered till February 1904. So the claimants had some four years after the time the court was established to enable them to make out and sustain their claim. The trial commenced in September 1903, and the trial, from time to time, occupied the Land Court till January 1904, when the case closed. The learned President of the Land Court delivered on the 18th February, 1904, the judgment now appealed against. According to the ordinance, a dissatisfied party has three months in which to appeal and, availing themselves fully of the time allowed, the claimants appealed, just within the time. They had thus had three months to look for and produce evidence which they ought to have had when the case was brought before the Land Court. In May 1904 the case came before this court. After allowing two months to elapse the claimants applied and obtained on July 27th leave to produce further evidence. They have therefore had additional time since the 27th of July last to get evidence to supplement their case before the Land Court. Their case has been one and the same from first to last. They have presented voluminous evidence to support that case. They have been afforded two opportunities to bring forward further evidence. Now it is a principle that the Court should not permit evidence to be given in reply which should have been given in the first instance in support of a claim. The Court is averse to admitting further evidence which would not help us to make up our minds on the main issue involved.

Continuing the Chief Justice said—The principle with respect to the admission of further evidence in courts of first instance is much more strictly applied when you come to the court of appeal, where further evidence is not admitted except on special grounds: and you are not able to give us any special grounds here. I think the motion must be dismissed.

His Honour Mr. T. Sercombe Smith gave his views on the subject, agreeing with the Chief Justice.

Tuesday, 29th November.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

FONG PIK CHI v. THE OPIUM FARMER.

This was an action in which the plaintiff claimed \$500 damages from the defendant for alleged wrongful seizure of opium from the shop in which the plaintiff was licensee, and which the Opium Farmer raided because he suspected that illicit opium de ling was carried on. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Hastings for the defendant.

The facts briefly were as follows:—On the 12th December last two men were arrested at No. 211, Des Voeux Road West, for being in possession of illicit opium. They were both

convicted, one being fined \$24 and the other \$10. The Opium Farmer suspected that the shop was dealing in illicit opium, but thinking he might not be able to prove such to be the case did not take legal action in the matter. The opium in the shop was seized, but passed the test. The Farmer, however, cancelled the licence, and was prepared to pay \$200 owing to licensee. About that time a dispute arose between two men as to who was entitled to the money, so the Opium Farmer paid it into Court to let them settle among themselves. The plaintiff in the present case got judgment for the \$200, and now proceeded against the Farmer on the grounds that the Farmer's action had damaged his business.

The case for the defence was that the Opium Farmer, as owner of the opium monopoly, was entitled to obtain warrants to search premises which he reasonably suspected as being places where illicit opium trading was carried on. Witnesses were also brought to prove that the plaintiff in this action was not Fong Pik Chi, as he represented; Fong Pik Chi, to whom the licence relating to this shop had been granted, was dead.

His Lordship gave judgment for the Opium Farmer with costs, it having been proved that the plaintiff was not the man whom he represented himself to be.

Mr. Hastings applied that the plaintiff be arrested on a charge of perjury.

His Lordship ordered immediate execution against the man.

Wednesday, 30th November.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

KWONG UN FIRM v. WONG KUN TAK AND OTHERS.

This was an action in which the plaintiff firm proceeded against Wong Kun Tak, Ho Chak Shan, Tang Chak Hing, alias Tang Sz Leung, and Tang Tsuk U, the defendants, for \$1,295.56, reduced to a thousand dollars so as to come within Summary Jurisdiction. The plaintiffs alleged that the money was owing to them in respect of the balance of payment for coal sold and delivered by them to the defendants. The plaintiffs stated that coal had been supplied to the value of \$6745.10, while only \$5,449.54 had been paid for, leaving a balance of \$1,295.56 owing to them.

Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Mr. Brutton's office, for the defendants.

Mr. Thomson said that the plaintiff was a coal merchant, and the defendants were traders. The question was whether the defendants were partners in the firm interested in the building of the launch *Ying Fat*.

The managing partner of the plaintiff firm deposed that he supplied coal to Yu Lai Chun, now dead, and the defendants for the launch *Ying Fat* between the 28th November, 1901, and the 8th December in the same year. A few days after Yu Lai Chun's death the defendants came to see him. Ho Chak Shan said that the account would be paid later on. He came later with Tang Chak Hing and repeated his assurance. Tang Tsuk U afterwards said the same thing. He saw Wong Kun Tak at the salt fish market and he also said the account would be paid.

Cross-examined—He did not remember an occasion when Yu Lai Chun mortgaged the *Ying Fat*. He was not present when the defendants bought the deceased's share in the *Ying Fat* and paid the money to the widow Yu Lai Chun; his foki was present in Mr. Hett's office on that occasion. He did not know that it was arranged for the widow to pay him the money.

By the Court—The payments they had received were made by Yu Lai Chun's accountant.

The case for the defence was that the defendants were not partners in the Hop Hing Co., and Mr. Justice Smith held that it was not proved that they were. One of the defendants, however, Tang Chak Hing, was not present in Court. His Honour gave judgment for the plaintiff firm against Tang Chak Hing with costs.

Thursday, 1st December.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

HO TSUI, EX PARTE YEE CHAN FIRM.

This was an application for payment of \$552.41 to the Official Receiver by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., said he was instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master to oppose the application on behalf of the Yee Chan firm.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd, the Official Receiver, said that, under section 43 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, sub-section 2, Ho Tsui were entitled to the money.

Mr. Pollock said that this was not the section mentioned in the affidavit. He submitted that the application must be refused, under the express terms mentioned under section 38 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance No. 7 of 1891. His Lordship would see that the Official Receiver was now claiming moneys under an order of the Court referred to on the 23rd July, 1902. Therefore the position on the 23rd of July, 1902, was that his client obtained judgment and received this sum of money before there was any act of bankruptcy. The receiving order was made on the 31st July, 1902.

His Lordship said that the Court could not go behind the order of the Court, made by Mr. Justice Wise. Mr. Bruce Shepherd could petition against Mr. Wise's order if he liked.

Mr. Pollock applied for costs.

His Lordship said he would give costs, but not for counsel.

LAM YUNG, EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

This application was made by Mr. O. D. Thomson for payment of \$551.38 to the Official Receiver.

As this was a similar case to the previous one the application was withdrawn.

KWAN T Z HIM, EX PARTE CHAN CHUI NAM.

This application was for judgment of costs made by Mr. J. Harston. The application was allowed.

CHEUNG COOK NAM, EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

This was an application for a receiving order.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Mr. Brutton's office, said that the applicant was unable to pay his debts.

His Lordship made the order and appointed the Official Receiver as trustee.

A. M. C. DA SILVA, EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

This was an application for approval of the composition.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Bruce Shepherd the application was approved.

LAI YU CHUN, EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

In this case Mr. Bruce Shepherd complained that Lai Yu Chun would not file a statement of his affairs.

After asking the man a few questions, His Lordship said—I order you to file a statement of affairs before the 12th December. If you disobey my order I shall send you to prison for contempt of court.

The Court was adjourned.

There was a considerable increase in the imports into India during the six months ending 30th September. All the provinces shared in this increase, the figures for Bengal being more than two crores over those registered for the same period of last year. The imports for the whole of India rose from Rs. 42,90,27,627 during the period from 1st April to 30th September, 1903, to Rs. 49,01,53,108 in the same period of the present year. Exports from India also showed an increase of over two crores, and the amount of treasure exported during the six months increased by nearly seven crores. During the six months ended September 1st nearly eight lakhs more worth of salt were imported into Bengal than in the same period of last year. Sugar machinery and almost all classes of goods shared in the increase. Wheat and indigo were exported in greater quantities in the six months ended September 30th than in the same period of last year. There was a big rise in the export of indigo from Bengal of more than 13 lakhs. Exports jute and gunny cloths both showed an increase this year, while the export cotton declined somewhat.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 15th November.

SIR, I am directed to transmit for your information a copy of a telegram which His Excellency the Governor addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with the reply received thereto respecting the attitude of the Russian Government as regards the treatment of food supplies as contraband of war.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) M. J. DRAYTON,
pp. Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM

to the Secretary of State, London,
from Governor, Hongkong, dated
the 4th November, 1904.

Mercantile Community wish to know whether Russian Government now recognize that food supplies consigned to private parties at belligerent ports are not contraband goods. Reply anxiously expected.

TELEGRAM

from the Secretary of State, London,
to Governor, Hongkong, dated the
14th November, 1904.

In answer of your telegram of 4th November Russian Government have admitted the principle that food supplies are only conditional contraband. Onus of proof in such cases will lie with the captor, but owners should be prepared with evidence sufficient to disprove any prima facie case which might be made against them.

RE-OPENING OF SOLDIERS' CLUB.

This club has been closed since 17th October last in order that the premises might be thoroughly cleansed and renovated. It was formally reopened on the 1st inst. (the Queen's birthday) by His Excellency General Villiers-Hatton, in the presence of a large gathering of military and naval men. A profusion of flags and tropical plants adorned the premises. Amongst the ladies present by invitation were Mrs. Villiers-Hatton, Mrs. Brown and the two Misses Brown, Mrs. F. H. May, Mrs. Chichester, Mrs. FitzWilliams and Mrs. Kent; while officers present, representing the various regiments in the Colony, were Col. Bunny, A.O., Captain Davis, I.O.M., Major Ormiston, 17th Co. R.G.A., Major Dubbing Heppenstall, R.E., Rev. Hardy, Capt. Watkins, R.E., Major Pritchard, H.K.V., Lieut. Stragnell, R.E., Lieut. Harvey, R.A.M.C., Lieut. Pezars, A.S.C., Col. Webb, R.A.M.C., Col. Watts, Sherwood Foresters, Col. Kent, R.G.A., Major Ross, D.A.Q.M.G., Com. Dickson, R.N.

Colonel Brown, the President of the Club, in calling upon His Excellency the General to reopen it, said that the place had been closed since the 17th October last in order that the premises might be thoroughly cleansed and renovated. These repairs had been carried out partly by a contribution given by the War Department of £140, and partly by the profits of the Club. The work was now completed, and a good many additional comforts had been provided. He called upon His Excellency in the name of the members to reopen the Club.

HIS EXCELLENCY had much pleasure in declaring the Club reopened. It was one of the most flourishing institutions in Hongkong and supported itself. It was the soldiers' own property, and they ought to thank Captain FitzWilliams for the work he had done in connection with it.

Captain FITZWILLIAMS said:—Your Excellency, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.—Perhaps a few remarks by me, as Hon. Secretary of this Club, may not be out of place. The origin of the Soldiers' Club is apt to be lost sight of. It was a free gift by the officers to the garrison four and a half years ago. Sir William Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., the founder, whom the garrison have to thank for its existence, raised the funds to start it, himself giving \$1,000. Of all the members of the garrison who contributed to its inauguration, one alone remains, our gallant President,

Colonel Brown (cheers). The Club has changed since those days from a dirty, disused and insanitary store to what you now see it. It is so clean, new, spick and span that we might run the chance of someone wishing to re-appropriate and convert it into something else. The Club's motto should be, "What I have I hold"—not by right or might, but by its good behaviour. The club is now self-supporting, and all these improvements have been paid for out of its own funds. To-day it has made a re-start, and will run more snugly and better than the trams outside (laughter) as there will be less noise about it. Its future functions are to be social and sporting. By "social" it is understood that all soldiers and sailors of the garrison may mix, irrespective of rank. It offers privileges to those who wish for a quiet time, to read or write away from the noise and publicity of the Barracks. For the nucleus of our library we have to thank the members of the Hongkong Club. By "sport," it is understood that it will be a place where all records of events in the garrison can be seen, whether cricket, football, shooting, boxing, swimming, or billiards, so that a new unit, coming into the Colony can see on these walls the sporting records of the past. There is a certain section of the Garrison who say bad things of the club and assert it is a source of crime in the garrison. I, for one, very much doubt if it is true; but if it were, the committee who consist of the O.C. units, have the remedy in their own hands, by debarring all bad characters from entering the club at all. Elevating the status of the British army is a popular cry of the present day; it is by clubs such as these that the soldier can show that he is worthy of such consideration. It is by such a club that he can realize what social obligations he is under to Society. I predict that within the next twenty years most garrison towns will have clubs; already Canada and India each has one, and the "Union Jack" is shortly to be opened in London. The Hongkong Garrison, however, can claim the record for the first Soldiers' Club started and run on independent lines, and can congratulate itself on the state in which H.E. the G.O.C. has this day kindly re-opened it.

Quartermaster Sergt. BAYANT, of the Royal Engineers, wished to thank His Excellency for so kindly consenting to open the club. It had always been a place where one could drop in and spend a pleasant hour, and its reopening had been eagerly looked forward to. This Club had been the means of supporting and assisting all garrison sport by giving challenge cups and shields for rifle shooting, cricket and football. In the evening the amusement took the form of billiard tournaments. The Club had also assisted to defray the cost of erecting the monument at Happy Valley to the memory of their comrades who were killed or died in North China. They also contributed quarterly to the Garrison Hospital. He hoped that all members would show their appreciation of the Club by their good conduct and give people an opportunity of speaking of the Soldiers' Club as a model institution. In concluding the speaker again thanked His Excellency and trusted he would look upon the progress of the Club with a favourable eye, and at all times give them his valuable patronage.

Col. Brown, the President, then thanked His Excellency for opening the Club, and the response of the General concluded the meeting.

OPENING OF THE POLICE RECREATION CLUB.

There was a large gathering of the force, and also of ladies, to witness the opening of the Police Recreation Club by the Captain Superintendent, Mr. F. J. Badeley, at Happy Valley on the 26th November. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson on calling upon the Captain Superintendent to open the Club said:—Mr. Badeley, Mr. Hallifax, Mrs. Badeley, ladies and gentlemen:—Some time ago I ventured to repeat the saying "A policeman's life is not a happy one," but in doing so, I claimed that, whatever truth there might be in the saying, there was much comfort to be derived from the encouragement there is in the good-will of our superiors, such good-will being naturally the

outcome of duty done and the respect of the residents having been won. To-day, having been asked by my comrades to speak on this auspicious occasion, I take the liberty to again refer to the old saying "A policeman's life is not a happy one," but I will, on this occasion, go a step further and claim that our life is, since I last referred to the saying, a happier one. Now, ladies and gentlemen, to whom and to what do we owe this state of happiness? We have now a nice piece of ground and a shed, and have established ourselves here as the H.K.P.R.C. To whom do we owe all this? To you, Mr. Badley, and to you, Mr. Hallifax, who have in the course of a few months secured for us this privilege. I have been asked to invite you to open the ground this afternoon, and I do so with great pleasure, but I will also ask you to accept the thanks of us all for what you have done. And so will we, as the grass upon which we play, keep your memory ever green.

Mr. Badeley, in a prompt manner, declared the Club opened, and Inspector Withers forthwith hoisted the Club's flag. The Captain Superintendent said the opening of the club was entirely due to Deputy Superintendent Hallifax, also to Inspectors Withers and Langley. Mr. Hallifax had worked like a horse, and the result was evident. Up till now the police cricket club had had a fair measure of success, which they had accepted with loud jubilation, and he trusted they would accept the reverse in the way observed by philosophers and sportsmen. He did not look upon league matches as all in all. The club was formed to get as much enjoyment out of it as possible, and although the married men had been thrashed that day—the score stood 144 against 32 with five wickets to fall—they would proceed forthwith to retaliate at a game of bowls. He hoped, ere long, that the club would be able to arrange matches between the ladies.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

The annual ball of St. Andrew's Society was held at the City Hall on the 30th Nov. The stewards were as follows:—

Messrs. W. Armstrong, G. Murray Bain, H.G.C. Bailey, W. Neish Bain, J. W. C. Bonnar, R. W. Borthwick, A. Boyd, N. S. Brown, W. D. Braidwood, H. F. Campbell, H. F. Carmichael, T. P. Cochrane, W. A. Cruickshank, G. Dickie, W. H. Donald, Duncan Clark, Geo. Duncan, Geo. Leo, Duncan, Andrew Forbes, Dr. Forsyth, Messrs. H. W. Fraser, A. W. Galloway, A. G. Gordon, W. D. Graham, R. Henderson, T. F. Hough, J. L. Houston, Dr. Hunter, Mr. P. S. Jamieson, Lord Kelbourne, H. M. S. Alacrity, Messrs. D. Macdonald (B. & S.), C. W. Mackie, D. MacDonald (K. & M.), Lt. G. B. McDonald, Mr. G. McCubbin, Capt. Milroy, Messrs R. Mitchell, A. C. More, Major Ormiston (R.G.A.), Messrs W. Parlane, J. Paterson, J. C. Peter, G. W. F. Playfair, W. Ramsay, Dr. Rennie, Messrs. H. W. Robertson, A. Rodger, J. Rodger (Mercantile Bank), J. Gray Scott, Hon. R. Shewan, Thos. Skinner, J. R. M. Smith, Lt. A. J. Souther (R.A.), Hon. Gershom Stewart, Messrs. Murray Stewart, W. Stopani, W. Taylor, R. Sutherland, James Walker, W. M. Watson, David Wood, and H. S. Wynne.

We have no doubt that every reader is aware that yesterday and some portion of to-day was St. Andrew's Day, for at all centres of European population along the coast of Asia, from Colombo to Hakodate, the annual festival of Scotland is religiously celebrated by a Ball to which practically the whole European population gets invited. The Ball held last night in the City Hall was in no respect less successful than its many predecessors.

As on previous occasions, the whole of the City Hall suite was utilised for the ball. St. George's Hall and St. Andrew's Hall were devoted to dancing, the Theatre Royal was made into the supper room, and the Library and former Chamber of Commerce rooms were devoted to ladies' sitting and refreshment rooms. The committee room adjoining was used for the reception of guests. The decorated staircase made a very dazzling picture. The pillars were entwined with ropes of greenery, and on both sides of the red carpeted staircase was a profusion of plants, ferns and palms. The top of the staircase was ornamented by a large illumi-

nated device of the Scottish Thistle backed by the Royal Standard, while on either side were displayed the St. Andrew's Cross in blue and silver shields bearing similar devices. A large mirror reflected an emblazoned trophy of shining bayonets beneath an illuminated monster thistle, the Scottish shield with the Royal Crown being conspicuous. Two howitzers, lent by the Army Ordnance Department, frowned upon the landing amidst a profusion of tropical vegetation. The dates 1847 and 1904, displayed on a red field on either side, reminded one of the age of the Society. A fine stag's head surmounted with a golden shield bearing the Scottish Lion formed the centre piece of the decorative scheme on the main landing. These were surrounded with the flags of various nations, the Union Jack and the "Rising Sun" of Japan being uppermost. The passages were tastefully decorated with bunting and shields. The picture of the patron saint occupied the head of St. Andrew's Hall. At the other end of the hall was an oil painting of the Duke of Edinburgh. The oil painting of Queen Victoria, presented by Sir Thomas Jackson, was in St. George's Hall. There were special chairs on a raised platform in front of the last mentioned picture for H.E. the Governor. All around the walls of both halls were suspended the shields of various Scottish families and the county names. "Kowloon" had a place amongst these, as was the case last year, when, for the first time at a St. Andrew's Ball, it was recognised that Kowloon was territorially related to Scotland. The decorations in all parts of the building showed to the best effect under the bright glare of the electric light, as it flashed from burnished spears and battle-axes and brought out the colour of the flags and bannerettes.

The card room was downstairs. All those who were able to say correctly "Auchtermuchty" were invited to change there for that city of impossible pronunciation, the Library having been constituted for the time being the "Grand Central Station of the South China Railway"—"Bar"—capable of transporting passengers to any part of the universe they desired according to their inclination. At the last St. Andrew's Ball, it will be remembered, some of the ceiling in the Library fell down on the heads of those playing cards while dancing was being carried on overhead, so this time it was protected by painted matting.

The flow of guests began before nine o'clock, and from then onwards there was a constant stream of people into the hall. The guests were received by the members of the Committee. On the arrival of His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, accompanied by Capt. Smith, A.D.C., shortly after nine o'clock, he was played up the stairs by Piper A. L. McColl, to the time of "Carse O'Gowrie," and the band struck up the first few bars of "God Save the King," and dancing commenced soon afterwards. It was entered into with great spirit, the music being supplied by the band of the Sherwood Foresters and Piper A. L. McColl. Some 1,200 in all were present. The ball room presented a magnificent spectacle of animation, the uniforms of the naval and military guests and the picturesque Highland dress vying with the brilliance of the ladies' dresses lending colour to the scene. In the dancing programme there were lancers, ten waltzes, three Caledonians and other dances, twenty-two in all.

THE SUPPER.

Supper commenced at half-past eleven. His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan was played into the supper room by Piper A. L. McColl to the strains of "Scotland the Brave." The supper hall, in the Theatre Royal, was very prettily decorated. On the stage at the back of the President's table a large blackboard bore the following lines:—

"Some hae meat they canna eat

An some wad eat that want it,

But we hae meat and we can eat

So may the Lord be thankit."

"Fair fa' your honest sonsie face

Great Chieftain of the Puddin' Race,

Abuin them a' ye tak yer place,

Kail paimch and thairm

Weel are ye worthy o' a grace

As lang's ma airm."

This was lowered while the Haggis was on. Facing this in the gallery was another inscription standing out from the wall in large blue letters. It read as follows:—"Here's tae us, wha's like us, de'il a yin." Each wing of the stage was flanked by a brass howitzer, Palms and ferns were scattered about in profusion. The front of the balcony was decorated with shields and ancient war weapons. The arches at the back were entwined with ropes of greenery, bunting, shields, and battle-axes. The caterers were the King Edward Hotel people.

COMMITTEES.

We have already given the complete list of the various Committees. Capt. A. Milroy was convener of the Decorations Committee; others who took a particularly active part in decorating were Messrs. H. S. Wynne, G. Duncan and G. Dickie. Mr. H. F. Campbell was convener of the Supper Committee. Those on the various Committees must be heartily congratulated on the way they carried out their respective duties.

CONCLUSION.

Dancing was kept up well into the morning, many of the visitors availing themselves of the special cars to the Peak and special ferries to Kowloon.

TELEGRAPHIC GREETINGS.

Telegraphic greetings were received from Tientsin, Yokohama, Swatow, Shanghai, Weihaiwei, Singapore and Amoy.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

1st December.

CANTON NOT SO BLACK AS PAINTED.

The Namhoi and Pun Yu Magistrates have sent a petition to the Governor, asking that prisoners and vagabonds may be employed to clear the streets of rubbish. Whence the prompting of this petition comes it would be hard to say, but it is certainly an excellent idea. When the plague was bad here a few years ago, it was made a penal offence to allow dirt to collect in front of a shop, but open spaces and odd corners were not included. It is these that are now to be cleansed. Visitors and new arrivals here are surprised when they are told that Canton is really a remarkably clean city for China, but this is a fact, as those who have seen Amoy and Foochow will attest.

ROBBERIES.

News of robberies continues to pour in. If all that occurred even on a large scale were reported daily to the *Daily Press*, I have no doubt that several columns would be occupied. The latest is in Honam island, where a village was held up last week by a large gang, and seventeen houses cleared out. The Pun Yu Magistrate has offered \$300 for each of the ringleaders, and smaller sums for the others, and it is possible that the reward may excite the cupidity of an informer. A smart capture was made the other day. A policeman noticed a suspicious-looking character carrying a large basket. His curiosity being aroused, he stopped him, and found a quantity of goods stolen from one of the monasteries in the White Cloud Hills. The goods were restored (at least it may be hoped so) and the robber committed to durance vile.

A LARGE BOOTY.

The largest affair which has occurred since the occupation of a town near Sheklung, is that of Shintung, about a month ago. A large band of brigands held this town, which is in the extreme South-West of the province, for a whole day. While half of them held off the forces of the law—an easy enough task—the remainder leisurely went through every house, and secured booty to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars. When such an act can go unpunished, the state of the province may be imagined.

STEALING THE RICE CROP.

I have just heard of an entirely novel kind of crime—in the neighbouring Pun Yu district. The local brigands were refused their customary blackmail by some farmers, who, however, had underrated their powers of resistance, for their fields were occupied, and the rice produced by 130 mow was carried away. They have petitioned for help, and a company of soldiers

has been sent them, but this may be "out of the frying-pan into the fire."

A MONOPOLY ASKED FOR.

A proposal has been laid before the authorities by some merchants here. They wish to get the monopoly of towing-launches from the provincial city to several river ports, Samshui, Kumchuk, and Shuntak included. If such a privilege is granted, it will have to be paid highly for.

REBELLION KILLING VICEROY.

It is stated that the Viceroy has been ordered to remain in Kwangsi until he has suppressed the rebellion. The disappointments he has undergone and the heavy work would seem to be undermining his constitution. He is again reported to be ill, probably with the old chest trouble.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

A QUIET ELECTION.

29th November.

The Municipal councillors' election took place on Sunday, the 20th. It was a very quiet and apparently uninteresting affair, no one seeming to be keen for the position.

MORE SOCIAL JUNKETTING.

The Harmonia Tennis Club gave a tea party in the afternoon (Sunday). To the music of the Military band, there was dancing, which seemed to be preferred to tennis. After dinner dancing was again resumed in the Macao Club up to 2 a.m.

THE MACAO BALL.

The Macao Bachelors' Ball was a great success. There were over a hundred ladies present, while the gentlemen were far more numerous. Several British naval officers, and Portuguese naval and military officers were present. The Macao Club was brilliantly decorated for the occasion. Two bands, a Portuguese military band and that of H.M.S. *Vengance*, were in attendance. The Governor of Macao was represented by his private secretary. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock, and the company did not disperse till 5.30 a.m. Macao residents then went to mass before going to bed.

FATAL TRAMWAY ACCIDENT.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, sitting as Coroner, held an inquiry at the Magistracy on the 28th Nov. into the cause of death of an unknown Chinese woman, about 60 years of age, who was knocked down by a tramcar in Des Voeux Road on Wednesday, the 28th Nov. Messrs. C. L. G. Koch, E. F. Ancott, and A. B. Moulder were the jury empanelled. Evidence was taken at length, and the assistant superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, Dr. Laing, after a post-mortem examination, found that death had followed concussion of the brain. The only conflicting evidence was that of Mr. Byrde, a missionary from Kwang-su, and the motorman of the tram, the former stating that the speed of the car was from 10 to 15 miles an hour, while the latter said the tram was not travelling more than eight miles. In addressing the jury the Coroner said that if the tram were travelling at an illegal speed even if the woman did not get out of the way the mere fact of his travelling at an illegal speed would make it necessary for the motorman to clear himself from the charge of manslaughter. Mr. Byrde had given his evidence in a very clear manner, but as the jury had heard, he was a missionary and came from what we call the wilds. It was quite possible that he thought the car was travelling at a faster rate than it really was, as he stated that it had travelled at the same speed on several occasions. It was very unlikely that the trams would be travelling at this illegal speed, as it would soon be complained of, and the management were well aware of the penalties for travelling at a greater speed than that laid down in the Ordinances.

The jury, after a few moments' deliberation, brought in a verdict of accidental death.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD.

INCREASE IN CAPITAL.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Green Island Cement Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office, St. George's Buildings, on the 26th November. The Hon. B. Shewan presided, and there were also present Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Hon. W. J. Gresson (Consulting Committee), Mr. N. H. Rutherford (Secretary), Messrs. E. A. Hewett, A. Turner, C. A. Tomes, T. Skinner, R. C. Wilcox, F. D. Goddard, and Fung Wa Chun (shareholders).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting. It had been called for the purpose of passing the following resolutions:—

That the Capital of the Company be increased from \$1,000,000 (divided into 100,000 shares of \$10 each) to \$1,500,000 (divided into 150,000 shares of \$10 each) by the creation of 50,000 new shares of \$10 each to be offered and if accepted to be allotted to the persons constituting the shareholders of the Company according to the Company's Register of Shareholders on the 28th day of February, 1905, at a premium of \$10 for each and every single share of such 50,000 new shares in the ratio and proportion of one new share for every two old shares in the Company held by the respective Shareholders thereof; the amount payable on each of such new shares respectively (including the said premium of \$10 per share) to be paid as to one equal half part thereof on the 31st day of March, 1905, and as to the remainder thereof (including the balance of the said premium) on the 31st day of June, 1905.

And that failing such allotment as aforesaid the said new shares be disposed of by the General Managers in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association.

And that for the purpose of facilitating the carrying into effect of the above Resolution the Transfer and other Books of the Company be closed for the space of seven days as on and from the 1st day of March, 1905.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, before I proceed to put the resolutions just read to the meeting I will, as briefly as possible, explain the necessity for more capital. We have added to and extended the capacity of the factories here and at Macao until we can go no further. We have now reached a total output of 34,000 barrels per month, but the demand has more than kept pace with our enlargements so that in spite of all, we have still to suffer the chagrin of seeing good orders go past us. We have, therefore, to practically begin an additional factory. After very thorough study of the whole question we have decided to put up a Rotary Plant instead of Aalborg Kilns as before. Rotary Kilns are now giving great satisfaction in Europe and America. To begin with the first cost of the plant is considerably less and in our case the saving is still greater, as we can take advantage of a good part of our present installation for the working of these Kilns, while as compared with the old Kilns the quality of the cement produced, though not on the whole any higher than at present, will recommend it to a particular section of our customers. Our Superintendent Mr. Uldall studied these kilns at home some time ago and recommends their adoption, and our Chief Engineer, Mr. Hewitt, being on a holiday we took advantage of his presence in England to place orders for a two Rotary Kiln Plant complete, making, as far as possible, special arrangements for adding one Rotary Kiln or more if required later on. These two Rotaries will give us about 16,000 barrels per month additional, a large increase in proportion to the cost of the new plant, which we estimate will be something under \$40,000. Our present overdraft with our bankers is \$486,000 and there is the dividend which may be reckoned at not more than \$200,000, so that altogether the proposed \$1,000,000 new capital and premium will not be more than enough for our wants. We shall, however, be in a much stronger position, and, as the more we make the lower the cost, we should be able to produce our cement at a price which should defy competition. As everyone knows this Company had to pay dearly for its experience; it cost us practically all our original capital and years of work and struggle against adverse conditions, which do not obtain in

Europe or America, and we do not envy any rivals who should attempt to take a new concern through all that this Company underwent at its inception. We have had an unusually good year, but we cannot count upon always having a large Admiralty Dock contract to fall back upon such as we have at present. It is never safe to prophesy unless one knows, but as the end of the year is so near and I know that shareholders are anxious for a word on the subject I will go so far as to say that at a rough estimate, for it is impossible to give figures that are at all exact without taking stock and closing all our books, our profit this year should be about 40 to 50 per cent. more than last year.

After giving these present time to suggest amendments the CHAIRMAN put the resolutions to the meeting.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT had very much pleasure in seconding. He was sure that all present appreciated the excellent manner in which the business of the company had been developed and the success that had been attained, which fully justified the proposals that were before the meeting. He was not in a position to express an opinion as to what had just been said regarding the experiment that it was proposed to make with the new kilns, but he believed the Company was correct in making the experiment. With regard to the Company, wherever he went he found that Green Island Cement was being largely used. He had seen it in North China, Singapore, and the Philippines. It was very clear that a much larger business was before them if their out-put was increased.

The motions were carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said that a confirmatory meeting would be held later.

CHUNGKING NEEDS FOREIGNERS

In his recent report to the Foreign Office the Acting British Consul at Chungking (Mr. H. E. Sly) deplores the representation of British trade interests there by Chinese, and points out the disadvantages of the system. He adds:—

"I am well aware that the argument is frequently advanced that the commercial inducement of Chungking are not sufficient to warrant the expenditure of maintaining a foreigner in residence. The steady advance in the trade of the port from 1894 to 1903, all allowance being made for the possibility of transfer of the likin to the Imperial Maritime Customs, does not, however, appear to justify so pessimistic a view. In 1894 the value of the total trade passing through the Imperial Maritime Customs was 10,781,505 taels; in 1903 it was 29,224,698 taels. In other words, in nine years the trade of the port has almost trebled. It must, too, be borne in mind that at present only one-fifth of the entire trade of Chungking goes through the foreign customs, the remainder passing under likin."

ANTI-FOREIGN AGITATION IN NORTH CHINA.

The Peking and Tientsin Times gives prominence to the following translation of a placard that is being posted in various parts of North China.

Heaven has sent his Lordship "Lung-ch'an,"
To act on Heaven's behalf
Before very long.

He comes in command of the Heavenly troops.

Fear not the smokeless guns,
And fear not the bursting cannon shells.
Have the stinking "Ta-tzu" or Tartars slaughtered,
And have the foreign devils' religion exterminated.

Notify you the people;
Must all be aware of this.
If you want to protect your lives,
Must worship the "Hung-chiao" religion as soon as possible.

In the original, says our contemporary, this is in rhymed verse, "which makes it the worse because more easily learned and more widely known."

CORRESPONDENCE.

INTERNATIONAL "LAW" AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th November.

SIR,—The recent decision of the learned Chief Justice with regard to contraband of war is peculiar in that it is based on International Law which, if it possesses a discredited and somewhat shadowy existence, has certainly no authority either among nations or among individuals (the Chief Justice excepted). In the case of this notable exception, it happens that the so-called International view of Contraband coincides exactly with the British view, and the Chief Justice is in the happy position of finding the interests of his own country in no degree at variance with the inspired doctrines of International Law. He is also in the no less fortunate position of being able to regard with some degree of asperity the vagaries of French and Russian Courts who disregard International Law when they find it irksome, and to feel no doubt a certain amount of conscious rectitude in the fact that his own judicial position with regard to International Law is, so to speak, irreproachable. In the enthusiasm of finding himself in a position so eminently gratifying to the heart of a good man, the learned Chief Justice is carried away to state that International Law, so far from being a vague chimera existing only in text-books and in the brains of visionaries, has on nations a real binding force which becomes only temporarily and occasionally in abeyance. That the learned Chief Justice, however, is alive to the significance of the fact that International Law (*sic*) on the question of Contraband harmonizes with the British view (and interests) will be seen from the following excerpt from his decision:—"The parties must be said to have used the expression 'Contraband of War' in the sense in which it is used in British Courts of Law, which is its sense in International Law. It cannot be successfully contended that provisions would be regarded by British Courts of Law as unconditional contraband of war, or that there is any likelihood that they will ever take that view." Why in the present fortunate instance is there no such likelihood? Because of the economical and essentially material fact that we are dependent on other nations for our food supply, and because we find the present state of International Law as recognised by ourselves, and at one time by others, to be quite harmonious with national interests. But if we found in some other equally vital instance that our interests conflicted with International Law as understood by ourselves, whether or not we should be even morally bound by International Law is a difficult question, and has certainly two sides to it; and if we descend for a moment from the contemplation of dizzy moral heights and wish to retain our equilibrium on earth, there cannot be the slightest doubt in the mind of anyone that we should not as a matter of fact be bound in any practical way or to any appreciable extent by International Law. Nations have been a law unto themselves (and Great Britain a good law unto herself and unto others) for the last twenty centuries; and they are not going to change their methods at the bidding of so inconsequent a thing as International Law, when a disagreement between its tenets and their own interests actually occurs. Suppose, then, that Great Britain had issued a declaration to the effect that foodstuffs were unconditional contraband of war. Could the learned Chief Justice, with all his deference to the law of nations, by any manner of means flout his own Government and refuse to take its definition of Contraband? He could not. French and Russian Courts are, I take it, in no better position. The laws of their own country must take precedence of International or any other laws. Where, then, does International Law come in?—Yours, &c.,

"A LAYMAN."

ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 28th November.

SIR,—Your leader this morning reminds me of thrashing a dead horse. No one in his

causes believes that international law amounts to a cent's worth of anything potent, not even after a Supreme Court Judge has imported into his judgment a tilt at your arguments.

"Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just," but Russia has gone one better by getting her "blow in first." What is the so-called international "law" doing to upset Russian law (*vide* her contraband declaration)? Nothing. British law *might* do something. His Lordship's judgment is a step in this direction, but—it was British law, not international. The position is that the question can be settled only by the old "trial by combat," and a duel between either individuals or nations argues more for a state of anarchy than a state of law. Law is something that guides a community, and prevents every man from being a law unto himself. International law should rule a community of nations, but at present it does nothing of the kind. As I think you said before, the term as applied to the present ineffectual conventions is only tiresome.—You're truly,

"TIRED."

THE WAYS OF YAMENS IN CHINA.

The following translation from an order issued by H.E. Chao Erh-sen gives a very interesting insight into the litigation practices in Chinese yamens. The correspondent who sent it to the *N.C. Daily News* says that H.E. Chao was genuinely anxious to reform the procedure in the yamens, and did effect something, but he was anxious to do too much too quickly, and he, of course, was not properly backed up. He has left a good name in Hunan, and it is a great pity that he left his post so soon.

The Governor instructs all Taotais and chih-fus to give orders to their subordinates for the extension of a system whereby the people are themselves to present their petitions, etc.

"Now, amongst the official class, who is not anxious to be a good public servant? Yet those of good and widespread repute are hardly to be met. The reason, however, is not simply that of avarice combined with harshness, but is to be found in their not being in close contact with, or diligent on behalf of, the people. Absence of close contact causes official business to be placed in the hands of underlings; want of care will, in the end, result in the people suffering injustice.

Inside the yamen are servants and their friends, outside are writers and underlings; these suppress public business, they squeeze by means of fear and deception; a hundred and one malpractices have sprung up. The fair name of the official is on the wane, and these are the reasons.

Now we will first touch on the malpractices. I have long heard of the exceedingly bad repute of the Hunan underling. Enquiries by the way have made known to me the general state of affairs, and a narration will make the hair stand on end.

Petitions may be presented on one of the fixed days, or by arresting the attention of the official himself, or by means of a yamen servant; the scale of fees for these varies considerably. Even in a case of ordinary arrest, three, four, or more constables are sent by the magistrate; after receiving their warrant the plaintiff has to defray their travelling expenses, and the defendant fees so as to obtain a delay. If going into the country, they travel by chair, accompanied by scores of retainers; their squeeze may be anything from ten to a hundred dollars.

Hanging up the petition after it has been visited by the Magistrate, notifying the Magistrate that the plaintiff has come to have his case tried, examining the extent of bodily injuries incurred, sending an evil-doer to the yamen for punishment, the investigation of a case, the production of evidence, the settlement of a case, a case being arranged privately, and many other occasions; for all these fees must be paid amounting to several hundred dollars.

The fees for adjourned cases and appeal cases have all to be settled afresh. On this account an untold number of families are ruined and a large amount of property lost.

In serious cases of murder or robbery with violence, there are examination fees, erection of sheds (in which the case is tried over the body), and travelling expenses, if the case is tried in a different hsien to that of the magistrate

presiding (paid by the criminal), the fees for which are still more heavy.

Relatives and neighbours are dragged in; it is not one family only that suffers. And all this results from simple litigation.

If the officials would but exercise a little control over their underlings, how could the people suffer like this? Surely it is not that all officials are ignorant, or is it that they know and connive at it? As a matter of fact the common people with aching heads and sad hearts can only blame their rulers. How can the officials take pleasure in screening their underlings and sacrificing their own fair name?

I, the Governor, have given much thought how to reform this degenerate practice; I have already commanded the Provincial Judge to instruct all Taotais and chih-fus to order the local authorities honestly to reduce the number of their underlings and to control them. If they are doing wrong they must be punished, and punished severely. But if we wish to eradicate this accumulated mass of malpractices the best plan is certainly to introduce gradually a system whereby petitions may be presented in person. This is the best way to get rid of the underling abuse and at the same time to help the people. A set of Rules is appended to the Order and the manner of extending the method is explained at the end of this despatch. Read them together and you will understand. They have already been printed to our satisfaction, and we write this despatch to cover them, on receipt of which you will order your subordinates to act in accordance with our commands. In cases of murder, robbery with violence, fornication, fighting, or assault, there is no necessity to abide by these instructions, and at the commencement of their introduction it is not necessary exclusively to employ them. Begin on one case; the people will derive benefit from that case, and later on will trust in it as implicitly as in their own limbs.

If the local authorities are able themselves to devise a new scheme, better than this one, or can pick out its advantages and disadvantages according to local conditions, they can inform us and wait till we have considered its merits and have advised them. If they let things slide, and betray their trust and do not sincerely make a start, or if they begin, but not thoroughly, and so cause divergences, or listen to their underlings making plans to frustrate it, or, being long in office, adhere to old methods and treat our commands lightly, I, the Governor, when I hear of it, will certainly dismiss and denounce them and will thoroughly examine into the case and show no mercy. A special order and not to be disobeyed!

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION AT SHANGHAI.

On Saturday the 19th instant, a Chinese youth drew a revolver, and was going to shoot the ex-Governor of Kuangsi as he came out of a Chinese restaurant at Shanghai. He was prevented. The native note-writer of the *Daily News* made the following comments on the occurrence. Wang Chih-ch'un, the notorious ex-Governor of Kuangsi, is the man whose exceedingly bad and rapacious government of that province in 1902 actually extended the rebellion there, and who was even on the point of recommending the introduction of French troops from Tongking to assist him in his work of suppressing the people of that rebellious province. It now transpires that the would-be assassin's name is Wan Fu-hua, forty-one years of age and a native of Anhui province (Wang Chih-ch'un is a native of Hunan), and it is said that he desired the ex-Governor's life because the latter was in the pay of the Russians and a traitor to his country. Wang Chih-ch'un is, however, a man reduced to the ranks—a cashiered official—seventy-one years of age and in very bad odour with the Empress Dowager on account of his bombastic boastings to her Majesty of his ability to crush the Kuangsi rebellion in four months. As a matter of fact the ex-Governor can hardly be termed "a dangerous man," and we understand he came from his temporary residence somewhere in Anhui province about three months ago, in response to an invitation from a number of his fellow provincials now in Kuangtung as expectant officials, to assist them in the agitation

to prevent the American syndicate constructing the Hankow-Canton Railway from selling their interests to a Belgian, French, or Russian syndicate. We further learn that the would-be assassin furnished the Police with the names of a number of young men, members of an educational Club in Park Street, called the "Hsinghsio Hui," i.e., "Advancement of Education Society," whom he (Wan Fu-hua) declared to be his accomplices. These youths were arrested and brought before the Mixed Court. It is also stated that Wan Fu-hua has a houseboat which is moored by the Chinese Bank, outside the East gate of Shanghai native city, and that this boat has been seized by the Taotai's runners who searched it but, so they say, found nothing incriminating on board. There is a rumour that a few youths who have been studying in Japan are filled with a burning desire to emulate the heroic deeds of Japanese "Soshi," who occasionally put away any they consider traitors to, or enemies of, their country. This may be true; but there is reason to believe that Wan Fu-hua was playing as it were to the gallery, when he declared to the Police that he wanted to put away Wang Chih-ch'un, for trying to sell his country to the Russians, instead of the truth, namely, that he had done so in order to satisfy a private revenge. Having "done the heroic" the man found it necessary to give out as fellow-conspirators the names of a number of harmless youths whose greatest sin is an admiration of Western costumes and desire to don them. One can imagine the kind of patriot we have in Wan Fu-hua and the stuff that is in him, when presumably without torture or coercion, he volubly unreels a string of names to the Police accusing the bearers of them of being in the same boat as himself. We understand that the local mandarins in the city, under instructions from the ex-Governor, have demanded that Wan Fu-hua and his so-called fellow-conspirators be turned over to their tender mercies. We trust the authorities will stand firm and refuse to do so.

THE HOK-LO AND NAM-TO PIRATES.

For five years past this daring band, under the leadership of Chan Sheng Hing, who was committed for trial by Mr. Hazeland on the 30th Nov. at the next Criminal Sessions, have held the residents of the coastal towns in Southern China in complete terror. The whole band were Triad Society members, and sailing under the black flag, extorted "cumshaw" from all quarters. Fong Ki Fat, a certain junk owner of Lai O, had paid the small amount demanded of him, like other Chinese residents, but when the leader demanded \$100 to be paid down, Fong Ki Fat refused, whereupon the pirates threatened to kill him and wreck his junk. They would no doubt have carried their threats into execution but for the timely arrival of the Lai O police under Sergeant Floyd. When the pirates saw the police they took to the hills, closely followed by their pursuers. An Indian constable who outstripped his companions in the pursuit and found his way into the midst of the pirates, was so severely handled that he has since had to be pensioned off. In this pursuit two of the pirates were captured, but the majority, with their ringleader, escaped. Whilst the Indian police marched round to meet the pirates by land, Sergeant Floyd crossed the Tai-O harbour in a police boat, and was just in time to arrest two of the pirates making good their escape in a Hok-lo fishing boat. These two were secured, and eventually appeared before the Court, where they were sentenced to two years' hard labour and 24 strokes of the birch. The ringleader of the band is now in custody in Hongkong, but the sub-leaders are at large in Chinese territory, and are being diligently hunted by Chinese officials. The junk leader was captured by 80 fishermen surrounding the village where he was living, and giving notice to the police, who went to his house and took him in custody. This man, as before mentioned, is committed for trial at the next Criminal Sessions, and on the charge of returning from banishment will be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

AN ALPHABET FOR MANDARIN.

FROM THE TIENTSIN OFFICIAL ORGAN.

The following is the report made by the Board of Education to H.E. the Viceroy on the proposed alphabet for mandarin compiled by Wang Chin-show, a Government graduate of Feng Juan district, who petitions for its universal adoption. The Board reports:—

We find that there are two great advantages in this alphabet, first, that it promises to be the means by which education may be extended to all classes; secondly, that it will prove of material assistance in the ultimate adoption of a uniform language.

Education in Japan has reached a very advanced stage, and upwards of 90 per cent. of the people know how to read. Even the small tradesmen and domestic servants can read books and newspapers. This has doubtless been brought about very much under Government compulsion, but it is also largely due to the simplification of the written language into a species of alphabet, and all the ordinary newspapers and many books have these simplified signs printed by the side of the Chinese character. Those of higher education read the latter and those of lesser education read the former.

In all the primary school books this simplified language is used, and the Chinese characters are introduced in the more advanced readers. Even the better educated do not disdain to sometimes refer to the Kana characters, while others are altogether dependent on it, and it makes ordinary reading and corresponding a pleasure instead of a task.

Now the alphabet, or simplified phonetic signs, compiled by the said graduate are somewhat similar to the Japanese Kana. The signs are even more convenient as they comprise words of only one syllable, and in the opinion of the official Wu Ju-lan of Tientsin in three weeks any woman or child ought to be able to frame words and sentences with these characters.

In the 24th Article of the educational regulations it is mentioned that the languages of all other countries are uniform, and the people of any one country are thereby kept in harmony. This is achieved by a uniform alphabet being the foundation of study for all classes. In China each province has its own dialect, and even the people in one large province can hardly hold converse, as various districts have dialects that differ. Embarrassments therefore continually occur in business transactions. It is now proposed to make mandarin the universal dialect of the Empire, and all the high provincial colleges and primary schools have special mandarin classes. The introduction of these phonetic signs would greatly facilitate the study of mandarin.

The Government graduate Wang Yi-hsing does not really understand this system, and at one time he strongly protested against it in a book called T'eng Yün, Pien Meng, or book on rhyming tones. It was well written, but it is a special work on rhyming and has really no connection with this method. He alludes to the varying tones of different provinces as a hindrance to this system, wherein he is at fault, as the system is only intended to be applied to the Peking tone and not to apply to all the various dialects of the Empire. It is the duty of the provinces to make their tones coincide with that of Peking and then we can get uniformity.

The adoption of this method is earnestly recommended in the primary schools, and the points to which the petitioners especially beg to call attention are the desirability of

- 1.—Establishing special public schools.
- 2.—To appoint special officials,
- 3.—To grant official funds.
- 4.—To provide funds for rewards.

All the above proposals are practicable and should be given a trial. Funds will be required for the publication of books and papers translated into this simplified type for the benefit of the poor.

In reply to the above proposals H.E. the Viceroy has stated that according to this report the new alphabet appears to be of great value to education, and the matter had better be laid before the Board of Education in Peking for full consideration and for the Imperial sanction. The original copy of the book with the regulations and the sample paper should be sent up

too, and if the Board decides favourably upon it, then the question of funds can be considered.

The real inventor of this simplified language or the phonetic tones was Wang Chao, not the man who is at present bringing it forward. Wang Chao was the reformer who in 1898 had the temerity to send in a memorial suggesting that His Majesty the Emperor ought to travel, and the Emperor, who just then had been roused into a display of independence, dismissed the President and four officials of the Board of Rites for daring to suppress this document.

Two or three students have since devoted their attention to this phonetic printing, and the assistant editor of *L'Impartial* has published a book which has also been reported on; but though said to be very complete his system was found complicated in regard to pronunciation if read quickly. The contention that foreign sounds too can be phonetically represented in Chinese is disputed, and it is held that foreign or even Japanese words cannot be properly reproduced in this way. The system originally drafted by Wang Chao and now presented by Wang Yi-hsing is the only one being approved. —*Tientsin Times*.

PHILIPPINE TRADE OUTLOOK.

The pessimistic press of Manila is regaining hope. The election of Roosevelt thus inspires the *Cablenews*:

The man who claims to see light ahead for the man who has cast his lot in the Philippines will not be so suddenly relegated to the optimistic class as formerly. Careful, conservative business men are not looking to the coming of a fabulous boom, but for an opportunity to realize encouraging profits on capital and exertion.

The basis of prosperity in the Philippines must remain the agricultural resources for a considerable time. Business activity in the islands has been throttled for the reason that the staple resources of the country have been so hopelessly demoralized. There has been no appreciable market for the products of the islands. The farms that had been so long idle or negligently cultivated are in much better condition than under the old regime. And with the present certainty that a home market will soon be opened to the products of the islands there will be every incentive to replace the necessary beasts of burden and to reclaim the fertile lands, as is now being done so extensively.

Beyond supplying the demand of the people of the islands and a comparatively insignificant market for tobacco, hemp, sugar and copra, there has been nothing to induce the cultivation of the vast areas of productive land.

The main desideratum at the present time is a moral certainty of a market for the surplus products of the islands, when there is any such surplus for sale.

The next all-important question is to induce the people of the islands to produce an amount beyond their actual needs. To do this we believe that every encouragement should be given those who would undertake to exploit the agricultural resources of the islands. Extensive grants for a term of years to large companies would not only furnish products to be sent abroad for sale, but would furnish the native worker an opportunity to earn comparatively good wages and teach him the science of agriculture along modern lines.

There must be a transformation in agricultural methods here before the land of the Philippines is a source of great income to its owner. This, now well under way, can best be effected by utilizing more idle acres of the public domain to the best advantage.

Looking dispassionately at the future for the Philippines there is every reason to predict a more healthful commercial and financial condition. Congress will not violate its pledges to the Islands. If there shall be a tariff maintained it will be only nominal. It will not be burdensome or tend to exclude the staple products of the islands from the markets of the United States. It may be regarded as a settled fact that the trusts will not triumph over the pledges that have been given by the party that is now flushed with victory.

A REFUSAL TO CONVEY AMERICAN MAILS.

Dodwell and Co. have refused, reports the *Manila Cablenews*, to allow ships of which they are agents to carry the United States mails during the remainder of the Russo-Japanese war on account of the seizure of the mails on the steamer *Calchas*, which sailed from Tacoma early in July. The telegraphic notification protested against the seizure as an outrage against America and asked what action probably would be taken by the government. The withdrawal of the steamers operated by the company will not cause any material difference in the despatch of the mails to the Orient. Mails were despatched by them once a month, and such mail as would have been forwarded by them will be diverted to other lines.

Following is the telegram to the State Department at Washington:

"Following cable just received from Alfred Holt and Co. of Liverpool, owners of the British steamer *Calchas*, which vessel was seized by Russian Vladivostok squadron off the Japanese coast about July 26:

"*Calchas* release appealed against by Russian crown advocate because among mail matter was financial information addressed to Japan officials containing information of value to the enemy. We give definite instructions to notify post-office department that we refuse to carry any mail for Japan during the duration of the war."

"The *Calchas* is one of the regular liners operating between Puget Sound, London and Liverpool, via Japanese waters and the Suez Canal. She was on her regular voyage and her cargo contained no contraband. Understand the Russian crown advocate bases his appeal against release on the fact that the United States mail carried by *Calchas* contained information for Japanese authorities. Hope United States will take immediate action against detention and confiscation of the *Calchas* on account of carrying United States mails. This is certainly an outrage against the United States that should not be allowed to pass. Please be notified that during the duration of the war we must decline to carry United States mails for Japan. Kindly advise what action will probably be taken by department."

Postmaster General Wynne later consulted with the President regarding the matter. The matter was referred to the state department, which may enter into correspondence with the Russian government to ascertain the facts in the latter's possession.

"SILLY MIMICRY."

Professor H. J. Davenport, of the University of Chicago, has communicated the following striking words to the Press: All ostentation is waste, excepting so far as it brings with it the unworthy gratification of being admired or envied for one's possessions; just so the Indian carried his take of scalps at his belt. But socially the outlay is more than waste, for in wasting our own share of product we at the same time make our neighbour's share poor and mean and insufficient. We robe ourselves and flch from him. The wealth of the rich casts shadows on the smaller store of the poor.

Because the rich in silly show waste what they can spare the poor in silly mimicry waste what they cannot spare.

SUGAR EXPORT.

The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, has issued the following notification:

It is hereby notified that for the purposes of regulation No. III in His Majesty's Order in Council of the 11th day of August, 1903, made under the Imperial Sugar Convention Act of 1903, (3 Edw. 7), the superintendent of imports and exports of Hongkong for the time being is the "Fiscal Authority" for this Colony, and that all certificates of origin relating to sugar to be exported must accordingly be declared before him and must be in the form of which copies can be had on application at the harbour office.

In accordance with the regulations made on the 17th day of November, under section 3 of the Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1904, a fee of \$5 will be payable at the time of making each declaration.

VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

The Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association is now an accomplished fact.

A meeting has been held in the Legislative Council room. H.E. the Governor presided, and some fifty persons altogether were present.

His Excellency said that seventy-three gentlemen had signified their willingness to be members of the Association, and he hoped to raise the number to a hundred. They should elect a Chairman: then a Committee. He suggested for consideration of members that the committee of management should consist of a chairman and eight members, with four to form a quorum.

The resolution was carried.

The Hon. Gershom Stewart proposed. Mr. E. A. Hewett seconded, and it was carried, that Sir H. S. Berkeley be elected Chairman (Applause).

Messrs. the Hon. F. H. May, the Hon. Gershom Stewart, W. G. Winterburn, F. Maitland, A. Mackenzie, A. H. Skelton, G. L. Duncan, and C. W. Brett were elected members of the Committee.

Mr. W. H. T. Davis was elected secretary.

HONGKONG.

H. M. S. *Glory* arrived from Singapore on November 29.

The weekly return of communicable diseases mentions seven cases of enteric fever, six of which (all Chinese) were fatal; and the other was a European from Shanghai. No plague.

At the Crown Lands sale at the Public Works Department on Nov. 28 Mr. A. M. Essabhy, through his agent, Mr. A. K. Ghossien, purchased Inland Lot No. 1727 for \$803. The annual rental of the lot is \$18.

Return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 27th November, 1904, were 291 non-Chinese and 09 Chinese to the former, and 09 non-Chinese and 1,580 Chinese to the latter institution.

On November 25th a Chinese sampan-man died in the Tung Wa Hospital. It is said that death was due to a stab in the abdomen which another boatman gave him with a boathook, during a quarrel about a fare.

The godowns at West Point were still burning on Nov. 25 watched by two European firemen with a fire engine. There was a small fire at No. 24, Stanley Street, a Chinese tenement, which the Brigade extinguished before much damage was done.

A man was seriously hurt by an explosion at the excavation works in Kowloon on Nov. 29. An eye was irreparably damaged, and the nature of his numerous other injuries make it unlikely that he will recover. Another man, who was run into by an electric tram, is also in a critical condition.

The Chief Justice has granted leave to appeal to the Privy Council in the case of Chan Up Sui and Pun Kan Shan v. Chu Ping. The action was in respect of the ownership of a Crown lease on the Praya, the property being valued at between nine and ten thousand dollars.

A Chinaman eating his rice in the shade of a large rock near the Yatmati gas works was startled and hurt by the fall of a part of it. It had been drilled and blasted the day before, and this was an "after fall." The man, who firmly believed that the earth dragon had had a personal quarrel with him, was taken to hospital.

The Royal Engineers had a large audience at their theatre on Nov. 28 when they presented a sketch "Ajax and Achilles," after which followed a series of variety turns. An original song by Mr. Ray, "The Shelter of the Union Jack," a song of Russia's firing on the Hui trawling fleet, was particularly well received. The programme concluded with the sketch "Done on both Sides." The Tommies all seemed delighted with the performance throughout.

Another gang of armed robbers, this time from Matakok in the New Territory, has been caught. Three of the ruffians, armed with knives, first held up a lady, and with threats and menaces obtained from her the sum of \$10. They then held up three men of a junk's crew, and with threats of violence demanded their goods and chattels. Shortly after this they were arrested by Inspector Macdonald, and on appearing before the Court were remanded.

A Chinaman was fined one dollar on Nov. 25 for selling live partridges without a licence. Mr. Looker, who conducted the prosecution, which was originated by Mr. G. C. Moxon, stated that it was the first case under the Ordinance.

The ball room at Austin Barracks was gaily decorated on Nov. 28 with flowers, greenery and bunting, the occasion being the farewell of the Sergeants of the Noits and Derbys to their comrades-in-arms in Hongkong. Over 200 invitations were issued, and were mostly accepted. Dancing, to the music of the 93rd Burmas, was merrily indulged in till an early hour of the morning.

On Nov. 28 in Mr. Gompertz's Court, while a case was proceeding, and several policemen standing by, some Chinaman had the audacity to steal a European's hat, almost from under his Worship's nose. It would surely be hard to imagine a more cheeky theft than that; although it is on record that a Chinaman once marched into Court with a ladder, and stole the clock.

Dignity is sometimes bought at a price in tropical places. Here is a wail from Ceylon that will find an echo in some Hongkong bosoms: So the frock coat and top hat are no longer *de rigueur*, and we must go to the Levée in evening dress! Well, the new order will do something, and that is why I hear it has been introduced—it will prevent the heterogeneous costumes some of our Ceylon friends are arrayed in. Everybody knows what evening dress is and instead of flat brimmed toppers we will see some in rickshas making for Queen's House crowned with solar topees. Alas! I never thought my dress coat would be subjected to such a trial as this. It is quite passable at night, in fact it looks rather well. But by day the same is green—well I prefer not to say more. Nevertheless though old and climate-stained—it will do its duty.

Mr. J. J. Spooner died at Government Civil Hospital on November 29 and was buried at Happy Valley on the 30th. The immediate cause of death was general debility. Deceased was 52 years of age. In his youth he served his apprenticeship for the sea, and subsequently entered the P. & O. Service. He left this when second officer of the s.s. *Chusan*. On the outbreak of the Zulu War, he went to the Cape, serving through that campaign, attaining the rank of sergeant-major in the Cape Mounted Volunteers. Upon peace being restored he went to Singapore, and joined the Police Force, but shortly after left to take up a position as excise officer in the employ of the Opium Farmer. He came to China in 1884, and joined the Opium Farm as excise officer, rising to be chief of that department, and remaining in the service for upwards of 18 years.

The children of the Union Church Sunday school went out to Quarry Bay for a picnic on Saturday.

The King has approved of the appointment of the Hon. Gershom Stewart to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council vice the Hon. C. S. Sharp resigned.

The Hongkong Volunteer Corps is now deprived of the services of Bomb. C. G. Danby and Gunner S. R. Boyd, both of these gentlemen having resigned.

On the 30th November a Chinese passenger jumped overboard from the Yaumati ferry launch *Cheong Lee*. The launch was stopped and the master of the *Willing*, who had witnessed the occurrence, also steamed up to the spot and picked the man out of the water. He was conveyed to the Civil Hospital for medical treatment. The man declared that he wanted to die.

On the 1st inst. being the birthday of Her most Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra, all the ships in harbour were adorned with bunting, salute guns were fired at noon from H.M. ships in port. There was no holiday, but at most dinner tables last night loyal residents lifted a glass and toasted His Majesty's popular consort.

The adjourned inquiry into the cause of death of two Chinese children who died from the effects of poisoning at No. 144, Queen's Road West, on the 19th October last, came on for hearing at the Magistracy yesterday afternoon

before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, sitting as Coroner. Mr. A. Franklin, the Assistant Government Analyst, after examination of the seed called pukwa, found that it contained nothing of a poisonous nature. The jury were satisfied that there had been no foul play in the matter, and brought in a verdict of death by misadventure.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

Messrs. Gibb, Livingston and Co. inform us that the steamer *Courtfeld* with coolies from Serai Island arrived at Durban on Nov. 28 all well.

The Hon. John Ferguson has accepted the Presidentship of the Ceylon Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, in succession to the late Lieutenant-Governor.

The *China Review* of November 14th hints plainly that the Japanese are circulating anti-foreign literature throughout North China. It is a most unlikely thing. The Japanese are too shrewd to waste time or money on works of super-rogation.

The Japanese are said to be buying a quantity of "cayus" ponies from Canada and the "Wild West." These beasts are hard, weight carriers, and forage for themselves. They are not for the Government stud farms, but for the winter campaign in Manchuria.

The Tientsin A.D.C. performed three pieces last year, and at the annual meeting on November 11th, it was stated that the financial results were "Our Flat," proceeds \$1,273, expenses \$876.66. "The School-mistress," proceeds \$1,322, expenses \$1,236.16. "The Yeoman of the Guard," proceeds \$2,568.00, expenses \$2,788.37. Notwithstanding the loss on the last, the members were in favour of another musical play.

The annual report for the last fiscal year was marked by the announcement of the preparation of plans, survey and complete study of a new water system; or Manila this study having been accomplished by Mr. J. F. Case. At the end of this fiscal year the board announces the preparation of plans, surveys, and a complete study of a sewer system, accomplished by Mr. O. D. Ingalls, and the digested reports on both these systems by consulting engineer Fitzgerald, who was secured as an expert to examine and report with recommendations on these subjects.

The Roman Catholic cathedral which until 1900 stood within the Shun-chih Gate was a magnificent structure, and its destruction by the Boxers was a very great loss to the Mission. A very large indemnity was claimed for it, and its reconstruction is now in hand. It is stated that in future the Mission intends to make an effort to reach the official classes, civil and military, instead of only the humbler classes who make so much trouble. The Government graduates of various degrees, and well-to-do families, may furnish converts who will do the cause credit, and future converts will be invited to furnish guarantors, and no offices of the church will be granted to those who cannot produce such. It is hoped by thus exercising great discretion in admitting new members to the church to avoid many of the complications which have continually arisen in the past. It is stated that the Catholic Bishop and the Chinese authorities will be jointly issuing a notice to this effect very shortly.

A gentleman who recently arrived at Shanghai from Vladivostok, and who has been in residence at that port since the outbreak of the war, told the *N.-C. Daily News* that the price of provisions, both luxuries and necessities, has increased nearly two hundred per cent. The *Hogaty* was in the harbour, but apparently badly damaged, as pontoons were necessary to keep her afloat. No Chinese are allowed in or out without passports, and all the available coolie labour has been requisitioned to strengthen the fortifications. Admiral Bezobrazoff was in Vladivostok, as was Admiral Skrydloff, who seems to be very unpopular with all classes. The general opinion, he states, in military circles is that Port Arthur will fall within a month, and Admiral Skrydloff has been censured for failing to effect a junction of the two fleets. No supplies can be purchased without the production of a special permit from the Commandant of the garrison.

TRADE ITEMS.

The manufacture of flannels in Osaka has greatly improved, and the Japanese imports of such materials have seriously decreased.

The Portuguese Minister, Castello Branco, who negotiated the revised treaty with China, left by the German mail Homeward bound to Portugal.

Japan has purchased the P. & O. s.s. *Nankin*. She was once a Hall Line vessel. She was recently employed on the Bombay-Hongkong run, carrying cargoes of cotton twist.

The total trade of Bangkok for 1903 was £7,431,371, about £500,000 less than for 1902. The rice export, which was abnormally large in 1902, declined £496,409. This year's Budget sets aside £333,000 for railway construction.

Kiukiang's trade is perceptibly mending each year, but there is a decline of imported foreign opium. Indian yarn imports have increased in value from about \$170,000 in 1900 to nearly £500,000 last year. Much more tea was exported, but this increase may not be maintained, as it was due to temporary shortage at other sources.

Taotai Pan Hsiao-su, the Chinese Manager of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, has been appointed Director of the Copper and Silver mint at Nanking, and also of the army store at Nanking. The Taotai was to take up his new post on the 26th November. Taotai Lin is appointed to succeed him in the management of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway.

Han Tung Tang, the compradore of the Hankow office of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., after having caused a great loss to the company which he could not make good, has, according to the *Sinwanpao*, committed suicide and his wife has also, after being pressed to pay off the debt, committed suicide. There were two Chinese who stood surety for the compradore, and they having also been pressed to pay the sum indebted to the company, committed suicide.

It is said that the Government after a considerable amount of consideration, will consent to a reduction of the amount paid by the Opium Farmer for the opium monopoly. The Opium Farmer petitioned the Government in September last. The Farmer pays \$2,220,000 per annum for his monopoly, and he petitioned for a reduction of \$600,000. The amount we understand, that the Government is willing to take off is \$180,000 or \$15,000 per month. The price agreed upon at the commencement of the year was larger than ever before.

Mr. Maclean, the special commissioner of the Board of Trade, has brought out another report on British trade in the Persian Gulf Ports. Muscat is the principal port, its trade averaging in imports £253,000 and exports £119,000 per annum. Mr. Maclean notes that the use of the rupee is increasing. The ports however, lack reliable forwarding and landing agents, and in this direction profitable businesses could be opened up. Russia has opened a depot at Bushrah, and now very likely at Bushire, for the exhibition of Russian commodities. Mr. Maclean, though he thinks that such an idea might prove useful to Indian traders, is of the opinion that they would do better by exhibiting at Bombay, as native traders make a good use of the steamers that ply between Bombay and the Gulf.—*Calcutta Englishman*.

The Governor of Hunan has memorialised on the subject of mines in Hunan. He says the mines in Hunan have been worked gradually since the establishment of a head office of mining. All kinds of ores obtained are smelted and separated by native method. They are not well purified, and are sometimes bought by foreigners who have them refined and sold back to us at great profit. This is very unfortunate. Chao Erh-hsuan, ex-Governor, tried his utmost to apply a remedy by establishing a laboratory at Heng-chou. Hsu Chen-cheng, an expert on chemistry, has been employed, and he is to examine ores for the head and branch offices in order to protect the interests of the province. The Bureau has now decided to send the said officer to the Hengchou laboratory to learn foreign methods in order to promote the source of wealth and save expense. The memorialist has therefore established a mining college with a laboratory attached, in which twenty students will be taught the mysteries of mining and chemistry.

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, dated November 15th, has the following:

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—No market. Shirtings.—Quiet. "Spot" and "Early Arrival" are apparently exhausted, and the future is too uncertain for long shots far into next year. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—Only small sales are reported at late figures. Metals.—Business, to a moderate extent, is being done, although a quiet tone prevails in the market. Kerosene.—Market weak. Sugar.—The market has remained firm with a slight upward tendency, but little business has been put through, the high prices restricting demand. Indigo.—Market quiet.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—During the first half of the period under review our market was dull, with generally declining prices, No. 1 Shiushu Filature being sold at yen 920, whilst Rereels—which are now becoming somewhat scarce—only dropped yen 10 per 100 kin, the lowest point reached being yen 940 for No. 1. At this point, however, exporters—principally Japanese—again entered the market, with the result that things immediately became firmer and have been on the upward move ever since. At the close our market is strong. Tea.—No transactions. Total settlements from May 1st to November 14th amount to 177,700 piculs, against 193,400 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Hiogo and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce, dated 15th November, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American.—There has been practically no change in the market during the past fortnight, although latterly it has ruled somewhat sensitive, causing spinners to anticipate prices to ease off further, and business is in consequence very quiet at the moment. Cash transactions have been nominal. Indian.—Some appreciable business has been executed during the past few days in consequence of a decline in prices. Buyers, however, are holding off again in anticipation of quotations receding further, and sales are therefore, practically confined to early shipments only. Chinese.—There is no change to report. Business in both forward and cash has remained quiet, operations being very meagre. Grey Shirtings, Cotton Goods and Fancies, Worsteds and Woollens. A few small enquiries but not much doing owing to the uncertainty of the present level of prices being maintained. Window Glass.—Quiet. Metals.—Quiet, both for spot and forward. Chemicals.—Match Chemicals.—Unchanged. Sugar.—Hongkong Refined.—Market quiet, but prices unchanged. Beet.—In sympathy with the home market prices are firm, but there is no material change to report. The demand from the interior continues slack. Osaka Refined.—An auction was held on the 5th instant at which 6,500 bags were sold. The figures realized for crystals and whites were the same as obtained at the previous sale. Rice.—Market continues quiet, stocks are increasing, and buyers are only offering lower prices. Kerosene.—Prices unchanged, not much doing.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—Total settlements amount to 116,000 piculs, against 126,500 piculs to the same date last season. Shipments:—New York, 197,922 lbs. Chicago 41,430 lbs., San Francisco 36,160 lbs., Canada 120,065 lbs. Fish Oil.—Quotations have declined to Yen 5.05 for Strained Herring per 100 kin. Copper.—Position unchanged; buyers are offering advanced prices, but no fresh business can be done, as there are no free supplies. Rice.—Prices have advanced since last report, but at the close show a downward tendency owing to absence of demand. It is now estimated that the harvest will not produce more than 46,000,000 koku, the crop on the middle cutting being considerably short of what was expected. Cotton Yarns.—Market has advanced. A large business is reported to have been done for shipment February/March. The export since the 1st instant is 18,932 piculs against 44,288 piculs for same period last year. Vegetable Wax.—In spite of large purchases for export, holders are weaker, and quotations have declined to Yen 27.50 per picul.

SILK.

CANTON, 5th November, 1904:—Long-reels.—Remained in good enquiry during the greater part of the fortnight, and some buyers followed the

upward course of the market; but business is now checked to some extent by the high prices asked. The size 16/18 has been in good enquiry, and the demand for fine sizes 9/11-10/12, and * Natives 11/13-13/15-14/18 has continued, as before, in a marked manner. From Sales made in different crops we quote: Fil.—Wing Cheong Sing 11/1 at \$930; Wing Wo Lun 9/11 at \$925; Kwong Ping On 9/11 at \$915; Chea Chung Wo 11/13 at \$902; U Hau Cheong 10/12 at \$890; Kun Wa Lun 16/18 at \$850; Chun Sun Hang 16/18 at \$840; Wai King Wo 14/22 at \$760; Soey Wo Cheong 11/13-13/15-14/18 at \$765. Short-reels.—There has been a little more enquiry for the best qualities at prices quoted below; but American buyers do not show much eagerness. Waste Silk.—Buyers have shown more readiness to meet holders, and a fair amount of business has ensued. "Extra selected opened" has been sold at several different prices, according to the individual disposition of holders.

* By "Natives" or "Market Cargo" we mean "Best 3me ordre" and Bon. "3me ordre."

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd Dec.—Some demands having come forward the prices are advancing.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.55 to \$8.65 pcls.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.75 to 7.85 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.25 to 6.30 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.10 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	4.90 to 5.00 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.80 to 12.90 "
Shekloong ".....	10.85 to 10.90 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd Dec.—The prices are going upward, market being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.45 to \$2.50
" Round, good quality.....	4.10 to 4.15
" Long.....	4.30 to 4.35
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.65 to 2.70
" Garden, " No. 1.....	2.85 to 2.90
" White,.....	4.15 to 4.20
" Fine Cargo.....	4.45 to 4.50

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st December, 1904.—We beg to continue our advices of the 17th ultimo since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
Stocks as per circular of 17th ultimo, 1904.....	1,103	2,101	1,193	1,850
Nov. 20th Imports per Nabia.....	390	—	—	457
Nov. 23rd " " Nam Sang.....	—	843	470	—
Nov. 30th " " Lightning.....	—	540	160	—
	1,493	3,484	1,753	2,307
Less Exports to Shanghai.....	94	125	75	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.....	152	510	130	248

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,247 2,840 1,539 2,059
Bengal.—As the consumption has not been satisfactory prices have declined to \$1.140 for Patna and \$1.105 for Benares.

Malwa.—The demand has been on a very small scale at the following:—

Quotations are.	
New.....	\$1,100/1,130
2 years old.....	\$1,150/1,180
3 " ".....	\$1,200/1,230
4/5 " ".....	\$1,250/1,280
Oldest.....	\$1,300/1,330
Persian.—Prices for good quality are 850/900	

1st December.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New.....	\$1,100 to \$1,130 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$1,180 to \$1,210 do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1,230 to \$1,250 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,300 to \$1,330 do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$880 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$90 to — do.
Patna New.....	\$1,145 to — per chest.
Benares New.....	\$1,100 to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that six steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 24,500 tons of Japan coal. Since 20th November 44,700 tons of Japan coal have arrived, all sold. The market is dull with small sales of Japanese.

Quotations:—	
Cardiff.....	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian.....	\$1.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Mitsui Lump.....	\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump.....	\$8.50 to 10.00 ex-ship, steady

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 2nd Dec.—The anxiety of holders brought about a decline of \$1 to \$1½, closing quiet. Stocks about 1,000 bales.

Bombay.....	\$27.00 to 29.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon (28 00 to 30 00 " and Dacca.....)	
Shanghai and Japanese, 30.00 to 31.00 ..	
Tungchow and Ningpo, 30.00 to 31.00 ..	
Reported sales 525 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his report, dated Hongkong 2nd Dec., says:—The improved feeling noted in last report is still apparent, but we have no advance in prices to advise. Holders have been willing sellers and assisted by a steady favourable exchange have conceded from \$½ to \$1 per bale on forward deliveries, spot goods continuing steady and unchanged. The feature of the interval has been the greatly improved enquiry for No. 20s, in consequence of their comparative cheapness. The low counts of Nos. 6s and 8s are wanted for immediate requirements, and favourite chops would be taken at an advance on present quotations; but the market is completely bare of stock. The Bombay market is reported strong and active, most of the mills having secured favourable contracts as far ahead as June next.

Local Manufacture:—The local mill continues very firm in its quotations for immediate delivery and we hear of sales of about 500 bales No. 10s at \$116.

Japanese Yarn:—A single sale of 200 bales No. 20s, at \$134½ to \$134 has been reported.

Raw Cotton:—New crops are much more sensitive to the fluctuations on the other side, and the keen competition of importers to quit stock has aggravated the situation. Rates have declined \$1 to \$2½ per picul, at which reduction 835 bales are reported sold at from \$30 to \$27½, the purchases being equally divided between the natives and the local mill. Unsold stock 900 bales. No business in old descriptions; stock 75 bales. In China kinds some 500 bales. Thoongchow have changed hands at \$31 and \$31½. Stock 600 (small) bales. Quotations are New Bengals \$26 to \$29, old \$25 to \$28, and China \$31 to \$32.

Exchange on India has remained steady with but slight fluctuation and closes to-day at Rs. 14½ for T/T and Rs. 14½ for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 93½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinning is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 19th November, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 7,500 bales at steady to firm rates in No. 10s, at a shade higher prices in Nos. 12s and 16s, and a Tael higher in No. 20s. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese:—A fair business has been done at fairly steady prices, sales amounting to 3,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 95 to 99½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 102 to 104½ for No. 20s.

Local:—Spot sales of 500 bales have been reported at Tls. 88½ for No. 10s, and Tls. 92 for No. 16s while contracts for about 7,000 bales have been effected at Tls. 93 for No. 14s and Tls. 95 for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai, 24th November, states:—It cannot be denied that the manner in which the recent disgraceful episode in the North Sea is being handled by the British Government has caused, to say the least, great disappointment out here, as it was thought it might have been the means of bringing about an early termination of the war. That contingency has undoubtedly been the prime factor in the heavy forward transactions entered into by the dealers here, and it has not, so far, caused them to waver, importers are beginning to think that perhaps a little more discretion is advisable. As things are going it seems that unnecessary haste was displayed in placing orders for the Spring, but of course it cannot be ascertained to what extent that early buying has influenced, not only the home markets, but also the course of exchange. Manchester manufacturers must have scored very heavily, if they bought "futures" to cover their sales, which they no doubt did, and it is probably owing to that the market for "spot" cotton is lower in Liverpool. There seems to be still great uncertainty as to the probable size of the crop in the United States, some estimates being as low as ten millions. The Government estimate should be out in another week or ten days. Manchester is now being kept up by the Indian demand which has set in at last, and as the China looms are fully engaged until quite late on in the ensuing year there is not much chance of seeing any decline. Whatever the price of cotton may be with American goods it is the home consumptive demand that is keeping prices so high, the China buyers having got their orders

placed on comparatively easy terms, and are now busy turning them over to the northern dealers at handsome profits and replacing at enhanced rates, but tempered somewhat by the better exchange. This the exigencies of the local market has been keeping abnormally high, on which, however, the rush for cover at the close is having a decidedly weakening tendency, the forward rates quoted now being decidedly disappointing to those who have not covered. According to latest advices Newchwang is still open, and if the weather continues as mild as it is will not close before the end of the month. The last steamer left here on the 19th instant. The natives still assert that some 20,000 bales of American goods will have to go up via Chinwangtao as they have been so late in arriving here. It seems that the bulk of the cargo coming forward is being piled up at Tacoma waiting shipment, the steamers taking flour and railway material in preference when obtainable, and that only. However, the ss. *Telemachus* is due on the 27th instant with about 18,000 bales. Tientsin is now occupying the attention of shippers, who have been busy replacing goods sold to Newchwang. It is said fully 10,000 bales have changed hands during interval, comprising mostly goods to arrive in the new future; and the dealers say they are quite prepared to pay ten taels a ton freight via Chinwangtao. The failures in Hankow recently have caused considerable losses to the Native Banks, and so shaken credit there it is not expected that any recovery will take place until after China new year. It seems, too, that the rice crop is short in Szechuen and there are earnest appeals for steamers to be sent up from here with supplies. Piece Goods.—The Manchester market continues very strong, but in spite of that there is a considerable demand from this, especially for 10-lbs. shirtings, drills and sheetings, and business has been done for April to August delivery. In the case of some special makes of white shirtings as late as next November was the earliest delivery obtainable. We certainly do not advocate doing business so far ahead, and considering the numerous factors that each and all have such an important bearing on the market here, it ought not to be encouraged. There is a decline in mid American cotton to 5.28d., but Egyptian is higher at 8½d. The fortnight's export of plain cottons was 16,000,000 yards. The market in New York is strong and active, a considerable business doing for China.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$9.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00
Reported sales 10,000 bales.	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs.	2.35 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.20 to 4.10
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.10
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50
Fine 6.20 to 8.25	
Book-folds 5.50 to 8.20	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.80 to 1.10	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.25 to 2.50
7lbs. (32 ")	2.75 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.75
7lbs. (32 "),	3.00 to 3.25
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.20 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.)	5.25 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—	per yard
Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 18 lbs.)	1.85 to 4.25
8 lbs.)	
Brocades—Dyed 0.13½ to 0.15	
DAMASKS, 0.09 to 0.18	
Chintzes—Assorted 0.23 to 0.55	
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.23 to 0.26	
Velveteens—18 in.	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.60 to 1.00	
WOOLLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.70 to 2.00	
German 0.60 to 1.50	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.00 to 3.50	
per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.80 to 9.25
Assorted 7.95 to 9.40	
Camlets—Assorted 13.00 to 31.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches)	12.00 to 21.00
Assorted)	
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 2nd December, 1904

Beans.....	\$8 @ 4
Borax.....	\$15 @ 16
Camphor (China).....	\$115
(Formosa).....	\$125
Cassia (First quality).....	\$18 @ 21
(Second ").....	\$15 @ 17
Oil.....	\$160 @ 170
Cloves.....	\$20 @ 42
Glue.....	\$24 @ 30
Grapes.....	\$9 @ 12
Fennel Seed Oil.....	\$325 @ 335
Ivory.....	\$250 @ 600
Kismiss.....	\$9 @ 18
Olibanum.....	\$5 @ 21
Rosa Oil.....	\$60 @ 160
Saltpetre.....	\$9 @ 11
Sandal wood.....	\$25 @ 28
Oil.....	\$300 @ 375
Senna Leaves.....	—
Sugar Candy.....	\$10 @ 11
Vermilion.....	\$75 @ 80
Wax.....	\$32 @ 38

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, November 23th, 1904.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected	Tls 34 50
Do. seconds	30.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	19.50
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour) ..	56.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	9.00
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	11.50
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	11.00
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	98.0
Jute	4.50
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ..	10.25
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchow and/or Macheng)	10.10
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ..	—
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	11.70
Animal Tallow	9.20
Gallnuts (usual shape)	17 50
Do. (Plum) do.	19 00
Black Bristles	120.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ...	21.50
Wild Duck	24.90
Turmeric	3.00
Sesamum Seed	4.10
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	7.90
Wood Oil	7.30
Tea Oil	9.00

Per steamer *Prinz-Regent Luitpold*, sailed on 23rd November. For Colombo:—750 bags sugar. For Aden:—500 bags sugar. For Suez:—167 boxes cassia. For Port Said:—8 cases tea. For Odessa:—10 cases bristles. For Buenos Ayres:—9 cases palm-leaf fans. For Genoa:—622 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 5 cases camphorwood trunks, 2 cases chinaware. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—8 bales feathers. For Antwerp or Bremen and Hamburg or Copenhagen:—6 bales feathers. For Bremen or Hamburg:—112 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—424 bales cases. For Copenhagen:—10 bales feathers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 2nd December.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/ 1½	
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	239
Credits 4 months' sight	242½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	193½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	141½
Bank, on demand	141½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	141½
Bank, on demand	141½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	93½
ON MANILA.—On demand	91½

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand 3 p.c. p.m.
 ON BATAVIA.—On demand 1 1/4
 ON HAIPHONG.—On demand 1 1/4 p.c. p.m.
 ON SAIGON.—On demand 1 p.c. p.m.
 ON BANGKOK.—On demand 61
 SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$10.45
 GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael \$55
 GAB SILVER, per oz 27 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd December, 1904.—The market has again ruled quiet during the week under review and there is but little business of any importance to report. The settlements on the 30th which were comparatively small passed off satisfactorily, and rates have hardened somewhat since.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have found buyers at the improved rate of \$7 0 and close with further buyers at that rate, but with no shares obtainable under \$7 1/5. The London rate remains unchanged at £70. Nationals are quieter with sellers at \$39.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in demand and shares have changed hands during the week at \$680 and \$685, closing with a still unsatisfied demand at the latter rate. China Traders have ruled easier and have sellers at \$63 1/2. North Chinas have advanced to Tls. 100 with sales and close with buyers at that rate. Yangtszes and Cantons remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue in demand at \$335, but no shares have been forthcoming at the rate. Chinas are still enquired for at \$90.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao remain on offer at \$29 1/2 without business, and a few odd lots could probably be got at \$29. Indo-Chinas in the early part of the week ruled weak, and sales were effected at \$129, \$118 and \$127 cash, at \$129 and \$128 for Dec. \$132 for March and \$135 for June, shares were also sold from the North at Tls. 89 and Tls. 90. At time of closing, the market is firmer with buyers at \$129 cash and at \$133 for March. Shanghai's latest quotation is Tls. 91. China and Manilas, Douglases, Star Ferries and Shells are all unchanged and without any business to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars ruled very weak over the settlements and it was difficult to get a buying rate, although sales were reported at \$234 and \$233. At time of writing, however, the market is firmer, and buyers at \$236 cannot be satisfied. On time shares are obtainable at rates equivalent to \$236 cash, but buyers hang back, and there is but very little inclination to operate. Luzons have improved to \$7 1/2 with buyers and no reported sales.

MINING.—With the exception of small sales of Raubs at the reduced rate of \$5 we have no business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands, chiefly over the settlements at \$218 and \$218 1/2, market closing with sellers at \$219. Shares are obtainable forward at rates equivalent to \$219 cash, but no buyers come forward. Kowloon Wharves and New Amoy Docks are on offer at quotations without sales. Farnhams are quoted in Shanghai at Tls. 173.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled very quiet with no business to report beyond a few very small transfers at \$149 and \$143. Kowloon Lands and West Points remain unchanged and without business. Humphreys' Estates have receded slightly to \$12 1/2 old and \$5 sellers new. Hotels are still enquired for at \$140 without bringing any but very small lots into the market.

COTTON MILLS.—With the exception of Hongkongs, which have advanced to \$12 1/2, there is no change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China-Borneos after somewhat extensive sales at \$12 have advanced to \$13 with buyers. China Providents have changed hands at \$9 1/2. Dairy Farms at \$30. Green Islands at \$32. Steam Waterboats at \$20, and China Light and Powers at \$10. Ropes have advanced to \$142 without bringing any shares on the market. South China Morning Posts have changed hands at \$20 and more are wanted at that rate.

MEMORANDUM.—Ordinary yearly meeting of the China Trader's Insurance Company, Limited, on 6th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$710, sales buy.
Natl. Bank of China		£70, £70.
A. Shares	28	\$39, sellers
B. Shares	28	\$39, sellers
Four. Shares	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$685, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$63 1/2, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 100, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$150
Canton	\$50	\$250
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$29 1/2, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$129, buyers
China and Manila	\$50	\$24
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34
Star Ferry	\$10	\$40, sellers
	\$5	\$30, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	24, sales
Do. pref. shares	210	£8. 10.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$236, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$7 1/2, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18 10d.	\$5, sales & buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$219, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$115, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 173
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$148
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
West Point Building	\$50	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$140, buyers
	\$10	\$12 1/2, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$2 1/2	\$5, sellers
Shanghai Land Inv. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 20
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32 1/2
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$200	\$107, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5 1/2
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$13, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$8 1/2, sales
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$30, sales & buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$45, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$32, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, buyers
	\$5	\$9, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$160, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$255
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$142, buyers
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$20, sellers
		\$20, sellers
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$53	\$50
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$20, sales & buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.75, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sales
	\$5	\$7
Steam Laundry Co.	\$3	\$4, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9 1/2, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$180
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9 1/2, buyers
	\$10	\$13
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers
William Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 24th November, 1904, states:—A fair business has been done during the week, particularly in Indo-Chinas, S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., and Langkats, although there is little to report in change of rates from last week. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/8 1/2. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks are wanted in the South at \$705. The rate in London is £70. Marine and Fire Insurance.—North-Chinas, have been dealt in at Tls. 96 cash and 102 for May. No business is reported in Fires. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas opened on the 17th with sales at Tls. 92 1/2 December and 94 1/2 March. On the 18th sales for

December were effected at 92 1/2, 93 and 94, and on the 19th at 94. On the 21st, business was reported at 90 and 91 1/2 December, 90, 91, 92, and 92 1/2 March. On the 22nd the December rate fell to Tls. 89, rising to 90 and 90 1/2, and 90 March. On the 23rd, January shares were placed at 91 1/2, with sales at 91 December and 92 and 93 March. At closing the market is very strong and cash and forward shares are wanted. Shanghai Tugs were placed at Tls. 48 pref. and 53 ord. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. There is a little easier feeling in this market. The market opened on the 17th with sales at 187 and 188 December and on the 18th at 182 cash. The market has weakened to 180 cash, and December shares have been placed at 186, 185, 184 1/2, 184, 182 1/2 and 182 with sales for January at Tls. 183. The market closes weak at these rates. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds have been placed at \$25 1/2 and 27 1/2 December, closing with sales at 25 1/2 for November. Oriental Golds have changed hands at G. \$16 1/2. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 118 and 117, shares are offering at the former rate. Industrial.—In Cotton shares the only business reported is in Ewos at Tls. 25. Shanghai Paper and Pulp have been placed at Tls. 170 and 171 December, and Shanghai Gas at Tls. 104. Langkats. The market opened on the 17th with sales for Tls. 300, 297 1/2, and 295 cash, 297 1/2 November, 302 1/2 December, and 310 and 312 1/2 March, Tls. 307 1/2 January. On the 18th at 292 1/2 cash, 297 1/2 December, 300 January, and 300, 310, 307 1/2 and 308 March. On the 19th at 293 1/2 cash, 308 and 310 March. 21st at 295, 297 1/2 cash, 295, 296 1/2 November, 300 December, 312 1/2 and 315 March. On the 22nd at 297 1/2 cash, 300 December, 311 1/2 and 312 1/2 March. On the 23rd at 313 1/2 and 312 1/2 March. The market closes firm with buyers at the higher rates. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 65. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$30. Astor House Shares at \$29. Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 19 cash, and 19 and 20 December. Miscellaneous.—Telephone Shares have been placed at Tls. 68. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Gas 5 per cent. Debentures have been placed at Tls. 85.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 2nd December.—A fair amount of business has been transacted during the past fortnight, mostly monthly charters for local and northern account. Cargo is scarce at Saigon and Bangkok, and there is only a limited demand for tonnage from these ports. From Saigon to this, 12 cents nominal; to Philippines, 30 cents last and offering; to Japan, 40 cents. From Bangkok to Hongkong, the regular liners are getting 32 1/2 cents per picul. Hongkong to Kobe, 32 cents has been paid for ready boats and 30 cents for loading a week hence. Wuhu to Canton, 25 candareens per picul. Java to this, no inquiry. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$2 30; to Singapore, \$2.30; to Manila, \$4.50.

The following are the settlements:—

Breconshire—British steamer, 2,323 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$4.50 per ton.
 Tebaros—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.2 per ton.
 Kansu—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
 Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.25 per ton.
 Bourbon—French steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 31 cents per picul.
 Lydia—German steamer, 1,791 tons, Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, \$16,500 lump sum.
 Ulv—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$8,500 per month.
 Carl Menzell—German steamer, 984 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$7,000 per month.
 Kanor—Norwegian steamer, 949 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$7,000 per month.
 Selun—Norwegian steamer, 835 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6,750 per month.
 Lisa—Swedish steamer, 1,442 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6,800 per month.
 Opland—Norwegian steamer, 843 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6,500 per month.
 Bjornstjerne Bjornson—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, monthly, \$6,500 per month.
 Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6,300 per month.
 Quartu—German steamer, 1,145 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$8,000 per month.
 Opland—Norwegian steamer, 843 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$3,500 per month.
 Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, monthly, 2 months, \$6,500 per month.
 Babelsberg—German steamer, 1,379 tons, monthly, 6 months, private terms.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

November—

ARRIVALS.

- 25, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Ellis, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Keemun, British str., from Liverpool.
 25, Maria Valerie, Aust. str., from Shanghai.
 26, Ancoines, British barque, from Fremantle.
 26, Atlantio, American str., from Manila.
 26, Decima, German str., from Chefoo.
 26, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 26, Domenico Ital. str., from Quan Chow Wan.
 26, Elsa, German str., from Chefoo.
 26, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 26, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Halaban, Dutch str., from Foochow.
 26, Hopsang, British str., from Moji.
 26, Kwangtsh, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 26, Legaspi, American str., from Manila.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 26, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
 26, Pollux, Norwegian str., from Probolinggo.
 26, Providence, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 26, Purnea, British str., from Rangoon.
 26, Rosario, British sloop, from Manila.
 27, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 27, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 27, Lyeemoon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 27, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 28, Armenia, German str., from Hamburg.
 28, Glory, British battleship, from Singapore.
 28, Indravelli, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 28, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Onsang, British str., from Moji.
 28, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Progress, German str., from Newchwang.
 28, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 28, Socotra, British str., from Antwerp.
 29, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 29, Cheangoheer, British str., from Singapore.
 29, Hellas, German str., from Chinkiang.
 29, Irene, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29, Riverdale, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 29, Seald, British str., from Moji.
 29, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
 29, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Kutchinotzu.
 30, Decima, German str., from Canton.
 30, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
 30, Gaea, German str., from Iloilo.
 30, Kohsichang, German str., from Swatow.
 30, Kweilin, British str., from Wuhu.
 30, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 30, Longships, British str., from Moji.
 30, Medan, German str., from Yap.
 30, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 30, Mercedes, British str., from Weihaiwei.
 30, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Thea, German str., from Cardiff.
 30, Woosung, British str., from Canton.

December—

- 1, Amara, British str., from Moji.
 1, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 1, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 1, Ormley, British str., from Moji.
 1, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 1, Tiffo, German str., from Moji.
 1, Waihora, British str., from Hoihow.

November— DEPARTURES.

- 26, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 26, Giang Bee, British str., for Kobe.
 26, Ikbal, British str., for Chingwangtao.
 26, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26, Samfen, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, Sangkiang, British str., for Manila.
 26, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Clam, British str., for Balik Papan.
 27, Decima, German str., for Canton.
 27, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 27, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 27, Kwangtab, Chinese str., for Canton.
 27, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 27, M. Struve, German str., for Tamsui.
 27, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 28, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 28, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 29, America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
 29, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Halaban, Dutch str., for Foochow.
 29, Hellas, German str., for Canton.
 29, Hsiping, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Purnea, British str., for Rangoon.
 29, Tean, British str., for Manila.

- 29, Tonkin, French str., for Shanghai.
 29, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 29, Yatshing, British str., for Hongay.
 30, Empereur Menelik, Fr. bge., for Sydney.
 30, Irene, Chinese str., for Canton.
 30, Keemun, British str., for Tacoma.
 30, Legaspi, American str., for Manila.
 30, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 30, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 30, Providence, Norwegian str., for Anping.
 30, Vestal, British sloop, for Spore & Home.

December—

- 1, Armenia, German str., for Yokohama.
 1, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 1, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
 1, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 1, Orange, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 1, Socotra, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Chutte, Miss L. Chutte, Master Chutte, Misses I. Little, Dickson, Thompson, J. V. Sinclair, Mr. C. O. Major, Mrs. Benarjee, Mrs. H. Campbell and child, and Mr. H. A. Lampman; from Yokohama, Mr. J. P. Keleher; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Seth, Mr. and Mrs. G. Murray-Bain, Mr. E. Burns-Pye, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Bain, Misses M. and W. Bain, Misses E. and C. C. Chaplin, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Malcolm, and Prof. Sharpe; from Nagasaki, Messrs. E. Power and H. T. Bosman and child, Mrs. Bosman and 2 children; from Shanghai, Mr. M. Michael, Lieut. O. R. E. Millman, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Horsey, Mrs. A. R. Parker, Messrs. J. B. Saunders, W. G. Stokes and N. Tooker, Misses Tooker (3), Dr. F. G. Tooker, Mrs. E. M. Price, Mr. W. T. Puddeph, Mrs. F. A. Mills, Mrs. Kooner and child, and Mr. K. Suzuki.

Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Major and Mrs. Selbey, Miss Lunell, Messrs. Klepsch, Benson, Seitz and Witt.

Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Rev. Bishop Hoare, Rev. Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Hassen, Mrs. Pyrin and child, and Mr. Hiroi.

Per *Kwangtsh*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Lobenstein Schmidt, Miss Lobenstein and Mr. Lobenstein-Coyent, Messrs. R. A. I. Andersen and N. A. D. Arc.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. James A. Floyd, S. Greenfield, and Francis Mirafior.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Tan Fan Jitay, Mrs. V. N. Somoza, Mrs. Chas. N. Ferries, Mrs. E. H. Ladd, Miss Ronech, Dr. G. M. Mayara, U.S.N. Messrs. S. Lenz, H. Lenz, Jos. N. Wolfson, A. R. Cotton, W. M. Tipton, T. G. Johnston, Wm. Clark and Lutz.

Per *Tonkin*, from Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Geachin and Ramirez; from Colombo, Mr. Dorabjee; from Singapore, Miss Martin Asoyawie; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Ascoli, Messrs. Tait, J. Flandrin, Aug. Gazignol, and Pere Nadaile; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. D. H. Eusinger, Alf. Johnsonford, and Pacros, Mrs. and Miss Coquet, Revs. Fabre and Gote, Miss J. Leroy, Mrs. Saunier, Mr. Andre Son, Mrs. Fabre, Mrs. Magnan, Mr. Deucet, Mr. and Mrs. Frendel and 2 children, Messrs. Auffret and L. my, Mrs. Dejoie, and Mrs. Lesage and child; from Port Said, Messrs. Kyriakides and Harold; from Batavia, Mrs. G. Schaepman; from Saigon, Mr. Morice; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. Unegarva; from Bombay via Colombo, Messrs. Digaria and Umrigar; from Singapore, Mr. T. Nishimura; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Launay, Mr. Offenbach, Mrs. de Raynall, Mrs. Lefevre and son, Mrs. Berthoz, Misses Pister and Bernard; from Bombay via Colombo, Mr. Bhesania; from Saigon, Mr. A. Prukner.

Per *Medan*, from South Sea Islands (Yap), Capt. and Mrs. Martens, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, Messrs. Richel and Loyd.

Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, for Hongkong, Rev. Knox, Mr. Hayman.

Per *Taiwan*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Hart, Gubbert, and Williams.

DEPARTED.

Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Misses Elisabeth Neumann, E. Cyrus, and Lina Didlankies; from Antwerp, Messrs. Jules Gobert (2); from Southampton

Mr. and Mrs. A. Turner, Miss Cookburn, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. A. M. Carmichael, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wookley, Mrs. F. Graham, Misses Annie Graham, Flora Graham, Alice Maud Graham, and Fame Graham Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Wilkie, Rev. J. Bland, Mrs. Bland and children, Misses Harvois, E. M. Scott, Taylor, E. A. Brash, A. L. Bell, A. McTavish, Mrs. Beauchamp, Dr. and Mrs. E. Horder, Messrs. F. Thomas, E. R. Fowler, J. Winter, Hans Zingg, P. Wardman, and Dr. F. C. Mitchell; from Genoa, Messrs. E. Ortigia, W. H. Purcel, T. M. Menzi, Heinrich Furth, Wothington, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nagel, Mrs. Huygen, Mr. and Miss Heermann, and Mr. A. Ross and family; from Singapore, Messrs. W. Busch, W. V. Robinson, Lieut. F. Chandler, Mr. John Cairns, Mrs. Schmidt, Messrs. John Glen and P. Bernatz; for Shanghai, from Hamburg, Capt. and Mrs. Miuning, Mr. and Mrs. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Th. Mammen, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ackenhausen, Mrs. Siebert, Misses Marg. Bode, Marie Muller, Messrs. Eieleke, Josef Schuber, Sig. Steckmet, Mrs. Mathiesen, Mr. and Mrs. Chr. Rasmussen, Messrs. A. Andersen and Hans Nicolaisen, Officers and Midshipmen of H.I.M. German Navy; from Antwerp, Messrs. Chevalier Fred. de Wonters d'Oplinter, A. Deplaney and family, Mrs. E. Parlongue and daughters, and the guard of the Royal Belgian Embassy; from Southampton, Mrs. Jessie Moir and child, Messrs. Wm. Gibb, A. Huber, H. B. Nibloch, Thomas Jimmo Thos. Saudy, A. M. Kable, Alfred Laird, Hans Witt, Herm. Frank, J. Watson, and Edwin Waldock; from Genoa, Messrs. J. Bande, H. M. Hillier, A. Haase, S. Morling, Mr. and Mrs. Wegelin and child, Miss Joh. Nering-Bogel, Dr. V. Somerville, Rev. Edw. Pears, Messrs. A. L. Fagerholm, F. Ohlinder, A. W. von Andl, Ad. Hildbrandt, Mrs. Marie Clement, Mrs. Harwig, Messrs. Hugo Zeitschel and Adolf Hettig; from Naples, Misses W. E. Southcott and C. unt, Messrs. V. K. Lee, Chas. Bevard, and G. Basse; from Colombo, Messrs. Julius Blan, C. Bridge, and H. de Voss; from Singapore, Dr. t-n Kate and Mr. E. R. Slowe; for Japan, from Southampton, Mrs. Brown and daughter, Rev. E. N. P. trick, Mrs. V. N. Patrick, Misses Bertha Glazier and Mary Glazier, and Mr. G. Fieldman; from Genoa, Mrs. onar, Mrs. C. Hoffmann, Messrs. Aslet, F. B. Blow, B. A. Munster, W. Henshi-Nagri, Prof. Drs. Ogiu and Kaneho; from Naples, Mr. Franz Popert; from Colombo, Messrs. Kay Svenson, Ludwig Jordan, O. Suvo, S. Tezove, C. R. R. lz, and F. W. May; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Faenschen, Messrs. N. W. Werry and A. Douithorne; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Wood, and Mr. K. Shiomasa.

Per *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Roach, Mr. and Mrs. Crombie, Dr. Konig, Messrs. O. Toepper, B. Rotstain, M. Russ, O. V. Lanning, C. C. Dunman, J. J. M. Drummond, H. E. Parkes, J. W. Potter, V. H. Lanning, Rouse, Beavis, Ware, J. Vaughan, H. W. Merrill, R. Limeslad, J. Nelson, and W. Hoffmann, Miss Haradatzki, Mrs. B. Rotstain, Misses Whitemano, Les, Pries, and Fildman; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Minami and Toyoshima, Mr. and Mrs. Nutsuse, and Mrs. Otoshi; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and Mr. F. Dunderlich.

Per *America Maru*, for China and Japan ports, Mr. Louis Eppinger, Capt. E. B. Cassett, Messrs. S. Osansi, C. Asano, H. Asano; V. Doi, T. Shintani, and Dr. F. J. Tooker; for San Francisco, Miss A. Delaney, Messrs. Percy B. Lawson, D. Slimmon, C. E. Grey, Nathaniel Tooker, Misses Mary R. Tooker, Gertrude Tooker, Margaret Tooker, and Dr. G. M. Mayers.

Per *Tonkin*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Lapieque, H. A. Courtney, Miss Glazier, Messrs. A. Plaisant, Loukinsky, Sie. Parachok, Mr. and Mrs. C. Campbell and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frost, Messrs. F. L. Miles, Jules Coquet, Villain, Victor Griva, and Oggerie Frederic; for Kobe, Mr. L. G. Luz; for Yokohama, Messrs. Abdoola and J. Ahamed.

Per *Legaspi*, for Manila, Messrs. P. P. Palmer, W. B. Perkins, J. A. Visio, and Rev. Petronilo Aguado.

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